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DIARY

OF

TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES

IN

UPPER INDIA,

FROM BAREILLY, IN ROHILCUND,

TO HURDWAR,

AND NAHUN, IN THE HIMMALAYA MOUNTAINS,

With a Tour in Bundelcund,

A SPORTING EXCURSION IN THE KINGDOM OF OUDE,

AND A VOYAGE DOWN THE GANGES.

BY

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DROPPING gently down with the current, before eight o'clock we reached the cavalry cantonments of Sooltanpore, and there received

a refreshing dolly of fruits and vegetables, from my ancient friend, Edward Watt, Esq., captain of horse, with whom I enjoyed an interesting conversation.

Continuing our progress, observed a long string of dandies wading in the river, up to their shoulders; a pretty fair proof of the triumph of habit over nature. The morning was exceedingly cold.

In consequence of the increasing strength of the wind, and the utter inutility of the helm, our boat whirled round and round in a pool, near a high bank, part of which every now and then fell, with a tremendous crash. At last, by the greatest exertions, we contrived to gain the opposite side of the river, in sufficient time to escape destructive contact with a steamer proceeding to Allahabad, pulling the flat (an enormous long and broad boat, filled generally with passengers) at a snail's pace, as a little black ant would drag a long dead caterpillar. The speed was probably under two miles an hour; and yet it has been ascertained, that government reap a profit of 10,000*l.* a-year from their river steamers alone! However, it must be acknowledged, that from the nature of its eternally shifting

sands, the Ganges is probably the worst adapted river in the world for steam navigation. There is not water enough, except in the rains, for heavy steamers—and then, the fall of the river is occasionally so rapid, that a boat anchoring in ten feet may be high and dry, unless the strictest watch be kept, before morning. It is nothing uncommon to find them in this dilemma.

Passed a large massive pile of buildings, on the right bank, a little above the city of Bunârus, called Ramnuggur, (the City of God) formerly one of the strongholds of Rajah Cheyt Sing, of that city, well known during the administration of the upright and illustrious Hastings! Reader, refer to "Mill's History of India," octavo edition, vol. iv., page 314; and if the historian may be credited, you will become acquainted with one of the means whereby we aggrandized ourselves in India. Let no Englishman of the present day look at that same Ramnuggur without a blush. The records of our Indian government do not, cannot, display anything more infamously disgraceful than the conduct of the then chief of our nation. Read the whole chapter, and say in what respect did Hastings differ from the

most rapacious robber, and heartless murderer of any age or country?

December 12th.—Unloosed our boats at daybreak, and at sunrise passed the picturesque and ancient city of Bunârus, called also Kâshee by the Hindoos. If the reader wishes to understand what I cannot venture to describe, I recommend his procuring those lithographed views of the far-famed city, that were published by Mr. James Prinsep, by far the most extraordinary man who has ever sought to better his fortune in India. I choose to distinguish him from his highly talented brothers, by naming him "Piyâdâsee Prinsep." And surely, if ever man distinguished himself in India, by his exalted genius, patient research, unwearied and eminently successful application, it was the Piyâdâsee.

Consider one of his discoveries only. Some three centuries before the birth of Christ, a certain Rajah Piyâdâsee,* believing himself equal to the reformation of mankind, undertook to teach them the way of obtaining everlasting life! Deficient as may have been his power to accomplish so holy and excellent an intention, he determined upon engraving his

* The Buddhist monarch of India.

rules on stone pillars, and erecting them in different parts of his kingdom—then purely pagan. This, as will be seen at a glance, was no ordinary man; and it has been by the genius of one as much distinguished in his day that we have been able fully to understand the pious and benevolent purpose.

As you are very possibly one who is disposed to turn up his nose at the silly attempt in question, it is my duty to teach you charity—that most difficult and most eulogized of all human attainments. Preach Paul, preach Peter—it is all one; as charity happens to require humility, you might as well and reasonably expect it from man, as expect a dog to study fluxions.

Now then, my dear bigot (if such you be), listen, and be ashamed! On one of the pillars of the Rajah Piyâdâsee, is found—

I. Edict, prohibiting sacrifice of animals for food and religious purposes.

II. Provides a system of medical aid for men *and animals* throughout his dominions!

III. Enjoins a quinquennial *humiliation*, or the republication of the great moral maxims Buddhistical,—viz.,

1. Honour thy father and mother.

2. Charity to kindred, *neighbour*, and priesthood.

3. Humanity to animals.

4. To preserve the body in temperance.

5. To keep the tongue from evil speaking!

6. Appoints *custodes morum*, or a moral police, to take cognizance of the conduct of people at meals, domestic life, families, and conversation; and missionaries are appointed "to drown them with the overflowing truths of our religion, to release them from the fetters of sin, and bring them into the salvation which *passeth understanding!!*" This is an exact quotation!

I skip one or two edicts; not because they betray any inconsistency, but because they are somewhat commonplace. Now for the tenth.

10. Comments on the "glory or renown" which attend merely the vain and transitory deeds of this world. The rajah being actuated by higher motives, *looks beyond* for the reward for which he strives with heroism (fighting the good fight) the most zealous, yet respectful.

"It winds up (says the learned Prinsep) with a curious passage about victory; which, as far as I can make it out, (mark how he

speaks of himself!) describes the victory of victories to be, that which overcometh the passions, and happiness itself, which conquereth the things of this world, and the things of the world beyond, and is the true object of desire!"

Four or five of these pillars, more or less mutilated, have been found in different parts of the Bengal presidency; but it fortunately happens, that the erasures do not occur on the same parts of the pillars, and hence a whole can be obtained.

But who was to discover, first, the alphabet of the language—secondly, the language itself —and, finally, translate it into English?

Here was a task! That which had remained a dead language for a couple of thousand years, even to the priests of the country—to the most learned of their learned pundits, and which defied all the powers of his much belauded predecessors—is triumphantly solved by the brilliant genius of a poor young lad, who comes out to make his fortune.

I am not quite done with Piyâdâsee. I shall shew you a little more of the effects of his love for mankind. Hear him again—what a graceful and noble candour pervades his con-

duct! Piyâdâsee the pagan acknowledges his error, and publishes the fact!

"Thus 'spake King Devánampiya (the beloved of the gods, Piyâdâsee! In the twelfth year of my anointment, a religious edict was published for the pleasure and profit of the world; having destroyed that document, and regarding my former religion as sin, I now, for the benefit of the world, proclaim the fact! And this (among my nobles, among my near relations, and among my dependents, whatsoever pleasures I may thus abandon) I therefore cause to be destroyed; and I proclaim the same in all the congregation, while I pray with every variety of prayer, *for those who differ from me in creed*, that they, following after my proper example, may with me attain unto eternal salvation: wherefore the present edict of religion is promulgated in the twenty-seventh year of my anointment."

And finally, "Let stone pillars be prepared, and let this edict of religion be engraven thereon, that it may endure unto the remotest ages!"

And how curiously has this wish been accomplished! Although the ruthless iconoclastic Mohummudan has in part defaced the

inscription of the pillar at Allahabad, and the other pillars have, until lately, almost escaped the notice of men, still has the object of the holy Piyâdâsee been deemed worthy of fulfilment. After a lapse of nearly 2000 years, the inscriptions have been carefully traced, and may now be handed down "unto the remotest ages!"

For this exceedingly interesting insight into the religion and customs of those dark and distant days, we are solely indebted to James Prinsep; Jones, and a string of other much vaunted linguists, had utterly failed, renouncing the task as hopeless. He has not left his equal in India, and I fear with him will disappear all hopes of our more intimate acquaintance with those Buddhistice periods, when a king actually felt interest in the spiritual welfare of his subjects.

Being surprised at observing a mosque with minarets, I was told by my valet Huzooree, that it was not in reality a mosque, but the tomb of Makhoo Doss Douruhur! But I recollect having either heard or read, more than twenty years bygone, that a Mussulman temple had been erected in contempt of the Hindoos, by the bigots of the day, on the ruins

of one belonging to the Hindoos. It is thus that cunning repays tyranny.

Numerous stone ghats, faced with nicely chiseled Chunar stone, adorn the river front. Everything appears massive and expensive. I only saw one house on an European model, and with glass windows, and that was intolerably ugly! The strand was crowded with pigs, and the air with flights of various coloured well-trained pigeons, wheeling gracefully in "ocean air."

The ghats even at this early hour, while the air was piercing and cold, were covered with male and female bathers, in clothes of many gay colours. While gazing at the transient scene, I was strongly reminded of the exquisite views of Venice by Canaletti. Many of the ghats had been gradually undermined by the river, and had consequently slipped down in large masses. Several colossal clay figures of Hoonoman, the monkey deity, were lying on their backs, gaudily coloured.

Passing a very fine new house, I inquired to whom it belonged? and the answer given was, "How should I know? it may belong to a beggar, or a rich merchant:" both trades being equally lucrative!

Millions of rupees must have been expended on the river fronts of the houses, besides on those in the interior of the city, which is deemed only second to Calcutta in wealth, but superior to all spots on earth for sanctity. It is the Hindoo Jerusalem, to which their dying thoughts are directed by pious Hindoos, expire where they may. The ashes of all great men, even from the western parts of India, are cast into the Ganges, at Kâshee. How often have I been informed that such burthens were the ashes of so and so, proceeding to the holy city.

This city is also famous for its manufacture of elegant and costly gold and silver tissues, for native dresses. Such articles are frequently sent to and prized in England, for turbans, by old maiden aunts, and stately sisters, creeping beyond twoscore. And, reader, if you happen to hold no interest at the India House, be advised, and begin your shipments before your sons are old enough to be nominated as writers or cavalry cadets, and thus, without *much* further sacrifice, you may insure one or other for your precious cubs.

As we continued dropping down, we found the banks of the river either naturally or

artificially sloped, and covered with luxuriant crops to the very water's edge.

Passed a long colonnaded, lower-roomed house, belonging to an indigo planter. A very little lower down, the banks on the right hand presented extensive perpendicular stratifications of kunkur, in some parts almost converted into solid limestone.

Met two large and most heavily laden Dhacca pulwars, proceeding to Mirzapoor with tussur tussur, or coarse silk cloths: each boat being decorated with a little triangular red flag at the stern, I mistook them for insurance boats, but was quickly undeceived by the mangee, who told me that they belonged to holy goosains! No goosain, said my informant, ever insures, because they cover all risks by their sanctity! This is a species of practical piety which escaped Hannah More! But the rogue could not refrain from adding slily, that, notwithstanding their holiness, they occasionally lost valuable boats, like other people.

13th.—This morning at sunrise, we passed a very dangerous part of the river, having a ridge of sunken kunkur rocks, on which a boat heavily laden with Chunar stones was

lying wrecked. The spot has been long notorious for the losses occasioned to the mercantile community, and is even so dangerous to unloaded boats, that my mangee would not proceed towards it until after sunrise. Such an obstacle is a disgrace to our government; for the labour of a company of sappers and miners, for six months, would probably entirely remove it.

Descending on the left, we passed the mouth of the Goomty river, and saw that a bridge of boats had been constructed over it. At the entrance of the river a fleet of boats were at anchor, having unladen their various cargoes, the property of native gentlemen of Lucnow, who were encamped on the banks.

Several handsomely caparisoned led horses were walked about, and the plain was covered with camels, *bishops* (or ekhas), one-horse chaises, &c.

All of a sudden, I was startled by the simultaneous rush of eighteen young elephants from the river, in which they had been bathing. These had been probably bought, and brought from Sylhet or its neighbourhood, for the use of the King's majesty at Lucnow.

Of all the animals with which I am ac-

quainted, saving the Bondela goat, there is none that suffers more from change of climate than the elephant. Of the numbers caught by natives on the eastern frontier, probably not one in four would survive a journey to Delhi.

Bred in the darkest and most gloomy saul forests, they are in a great measure sheltered from heat by the eternal moisture of the cool shady bower under which they rove; but they are expected to bear, all of a sudden, the most intense heat, acting strongly and directly on their jet black skins, when brought into the plains of Upper India. A speculation in newly caught elephants is desperate gambling: a very clever native told me, that he could make money by anything but young elephants.

Passed the village of Sûyudpoor, or the City of Suyuds, *i. e.*, descendants of Mohummud. They must now be a pretty respectable family, in point of numbers, comprising, I calculate, about a tenth of the whole Mohummudan population. In the work of a fair writer on the customs of the Moslems, we are told that they form a highly respectable class; but instead of that, they are to be found in every rank in life, from that of the most abandoned prostitutes upwards. Every man or woman

who chooses to remove to another city, can call himself or herself a Syud, or "Meer sahib," and the lady can style herself a "Begum," and they may propagate Suyuds by the lack! We can have them of all colours, from those nearly as fair as Europeans, to the deep rich black glossy African. It is very extraordinary how closely lying can be made to imitate truth.

However, the city of Sûyudpoor, appearing about a mile from the river, is famous for the manufacture of cheenee, or soft sugar; and hence it is natural enough that large quantities are exported. The whole of the country round Bunârus is famous for its fertility, and there is no plant that makes greater demand on the land than the sugar-cane.

One large alligator was this day observed basking in the sun.

Passed a large cotton-boat, which had sunk in a storm. The cargo having been speedily removed, was now drying on the sands.

Enormous flocks of grey wild geese covered the churs, or little islands, in the middle of the river. They are far heavier than the tame ones of the species found in India; but I have ever found them dry eating, and somewhat

coarse. They can be converted into delicious soup, by long, affectionate boiling, and their livers are far from being despicable.

14th.—Pulled down the dull stream to the cantonment of Ghâzeepore. At the distance of about two miles above it, stands the cenotaph raised to the memory of Lord Cornwallis, which, with the church, are very attractive objects.

On the left, passed the Koortha nuddee, or river, about one mile and a half above the cantonments. On the left bank, water percolated through the stratum of kunkur, in three or four places, from a height of about five feet above the Ganges. This water must have travelled from a considerable distance, as the dandy whom I sent to inquire could not see any lake from the bank. I have never before seen anything similar to this, except when opposite the hot well at Monghyr, where the water, trickling through the sand into the Ganges, felt nearly as hot as at the well itself, which was *then* about half a mile distant.

Took a drive with John Thomson, in his buggy, and visited the cenotaph. It is a very handsome cut stone building, and has a marble statue in the centre. The frieze is ornamented

with elegant antique helmets; from which circumstance I am inclined to believe that the architect may have originally commenced business in the army accoutrement line, for nothing else can account for their introduction.

Young colts reared at other places by the Honourable Company, are here prepared for entry into the army; and a committee was then assembled to pass such as were deemed fit for the respective branches—viz., Horse Artillery, Dragoon, and Native Cavalry.

At dinner I ventured upon a tumbler of pale ale from the Devanha brewery, situated at the Crâg Lugs on the river Dee, near Aberdeen! "Joy be to Shiraz and its lovely borders—may Heaven preserve them from decay!" The ale was equal, although not superior, to that of Allsop. The art of brewing ale for the India market is now well understood. Formerly Hodgson alone had command; now half a score as good as he dispute the field—some say, better. There are Allsop, Bass, Dunbar, Campbell, and other worthies of England, disputing the palm. There are Lancashire ales, Edinburgh ales, Burton ales, and so forth.

I remember the building of this brewhouse. The clear crystal stream of the Dee runs

quietly in front, through a gorge of rocks called the Crâg Lug; on the left, sweeping out to a point, rises the city of Aberdeen, famous for the production of learned men, linen thread, iced salmon, and other dainties! The rocks at the Crâg were covered with *whins*, or furze, gay and golden-blossomed; and the distant opposite hills of Torry met the amphitheatre on the left! Tall ships floated abundant in the harbour—whalers from Greenland; round-prowed, thread-coveting Dutchmen; clipping smacks carried heavy cargoes of red-haired cadets to London, for the India market! Such was Aberdeen. My schoolfellows are now lord provosts, professors of medicine, impudent grey-bearded lawyers, (famous once for plundering gardens,) divines, wealthy merchants, and manufacturers! May they flourish all, with God's good providence!

Before we could fasten the boats, divers natives anxiously followed us, in the hope of selling the essence or uttur of roses; or common rose water, in carboys, for which Ghazeepore is famous throughout India.

15th.—Dropped down and passed the city. Amongst the most remarkable buildings, on the very edge of the perpendicular bank, stood

a plain Grecian hospital for natives, having an inscription to that effect in English, stating that it was built in 1828.

A little lower down are the ruins of a fort, the scarp and bastions resting on the river side: within, stand the ruins of a palace, which must have been sufficiently grotesque in its appearance, being partly in the Hindoo, and partly in the Mohammedan styles.

Passed Korunta Dhee, a village on the left, immediately opposite the village of Buxar, both being stud stations. This stud produces the finest horses in this part of India. I regretted much that I had not time to visit the stables. The country is highly cultivated, and the banks of the river continue sloped, and covered to the water's edge with crops of wheat, oats, and barley. The cottages of the villagers begin to assume a more comfortable air, chiefly, I presume, from the roofs being formed of thatch, instead of tiles; which latter always appear beggarly, how useful soever against the occurrence of fire. The roofs are nearly parabolic, whereas those in the upper provinces are invariably flat.

Passed the wreck of a large boat, barely under water. To prevent accidents, two canoes

were anchored close to it, in which were stationed persons to give warning.

The river was covered in many places with flocks of geese, and ducks of innumerable species; but being continually scared by passengers, they are remarkably shy and retiring in their habits. Every now and then a group of beautiful palms adorned the landscape, but all at a considerable distance from the river; but large groves of mango-trees are not to be met with, the ground being too valuable.

16th.—The river appears, not only to widen, but also to straighten, as the various reaches lengthen. The country on both sides is exceedingly well cultivated, and promising heavy crops. Large quantities of oats are grown in this neighbourhood, for the company's stud. The palms begin to multiply rapidly, and at a distance they appear to form groves.

During the day, a fleet of no less than thirty boats laden with opium, the property of government, all strongly guarded, passed us; they are proceeding from Ghazeepore to Patna, where the annual stock is stored in huge godowns. They lugâod, or were fastened, about a quarter of a mile below us, on a huge sandy island, and were strictly watched during

the whole night by armed men, who shouted incessantly;—so you see that opium does not always produce sleep!

The banks now shew a complete change of strata; not a particle of kunkur is to be seen, but generally loamy clays; and amongst others, I found a jet black one, composed of the rich cotton soil of Bundelcund, of about six inches broad.

While the dandies were sitting before me, I could not help remarking their extremely low and narrow foreheads, none being deeper than two inches and a quarter! Who would dream of employing such shotten herrings as butlers or cooks? Of a verity, good diet is required for the formation of handsome men. Turning my inquiring eyes to their calves, I found none exceeded a foot in circumference; while mine, under the most laborious exercise, measure seventeen inches and a quarter!

17th.—Alas, no butter! or, what was worse, bad butter for breakfast. That which had been purchased by my principal butler, Imaum Bukhus, (or Buxoo) at Ghazeepoor, proved, on trial, like the ice creams of the venerable Hawkins, too pyroligneous by half.

In the afternoon, was sorry to observe the

government steamer, the "Megna," reposing in silent majesty in an adjacent creek of the river, in which useful situation she has been lying since the rains.

The captain, ambitious of short cuts, anchored at night in deep water, out of the main channel, and was aground before morning; she will most probably remain there until the rains.

The opium fleet were in sight during the whole day. A few scores of very small crocodiles sunning themselves on the sand banks, but none of them ten feet long.

On going ashore in the evening, I entered into discourse with a Hindoo, and asked how it happened that no handsome permanent buildings appeared in those parts? He pointed his finger at a low, paltry mosque, and said, "That is the only one;—our mother, the Ganges, is so very powerful, that she will not allow us to build permanent habitations. She is always cutting away and destroying the banks; and we fear that she may play us a slippery trick." Nor was this spoken lightly, or as it were, *poetice*, but with all due reverence. Not a large tree was to be seen within three hundred yards of the bank.

Wandering along the banks of the Gunga, I was witness to a most unique contest, something between a chase and a fight, of a large porpoise and a river fish. After innumerable circlings, the latter somehow or other managed to make his escape, and the disappointed porpoise swam with his greatest velocity close to the surface of the water, leaving a strong wave after him, continuing to increase in his circles until he became perfectly exhausted, and finally disappeared. The uproar and violent splashing was, for half a minute, astonishing, and might be either seen or heard a mile off. The water was raised to a froth all round the actors.

The crops of wheat, barley, mustard seed, &c. raised in the neighbourhood of the river, were exceedingly luxuriant; and the distant scenery, terminating in a low, undulating range of hills, sprinkled with graceful palm-trees, was exceedingly interesting.

CHAPTER IV.

Indigo factory—The Golden river—Timber floats—Danapoor—European troops—A gentle mother—Civil engineering on the Ganges—Officers' bungalows—Wine-making in India—The head quarters of gastronomy—The late Mr. Havell—Sale of his effects—An incident—Dwarf bull and cow—Bramin bulls—Beef-eating Hindoos—Itinerant trades-people—A proscribed book—A paternal government—Scene in a Royal cabinet—River pirate—Ionic palace—City of Patna—Curious coincidence—Pitiable ignorance—Native modesty of the sex—Agriculture on Ganges—Extraordinary burgot tree—Swarms of alligators—Inconveniences of too much piety—Village and fort of Monghyr—A travelling barber—A faqueer—Native gunsmiths—Excellence of their manufacture—Port wine in India—Diminutive deer—Hot spring—Curious scene—Celebrated rock of Jungheera—Bhangulpore—A blunder.

Dec. 18th.—Passed on the left the broad river Gogra, here called the Dêohà, entering the Ganges a little above the pretty village and profitable indigo factory of Revel Gunge. Here

palms, burgots, mosques, and Hindoo temples, conspire to form a beautiful scene from the river.

Dropping down, we soon passed the civil station of Chuppra; on the same side, and a little lower down the Sôane, or golden river, rising in the distant mountainous country of Gundwana, entered the Ganges on the right side. This river affords millions of beautiful pebbles and petrifactions, cut and sold as bracelets, &c. The Ganges thus receiving the contents of several noble rivers, gradually enlarges its banks, and during the whole day presented the appearance of an enormous mirror. Timber and bamboos in large floats, were gliding slowly down to the marts of Patna, Dinapoor, and other adjacent towns. The lower parts of Bengal are supplied with saul timber, chiefly from the northern part of Oude, through which the Gogra flows.

Our boat was fastened about five miles above the well known military cantonment of Danapoor—i.e., the city of grain—which, by the ingenious Englishers, has been converted into "Dinapoor," which signifieth nothing.

19th.—Unloosed very early, but found the whole country enveloped in a dense fog, being

the first we had encountered, which did not disappear until some time after sunrise. Reached Danapoor before breakfast, and fastened under the flagstaff, close to the fleet of boats belonging to a detachment of European troops proceeding to Meerut.

The men seemed to be chiefly composed of recruits, with a few old soldiers, accompanied by their wives and children; the latter being remarkably dirty in their dress and persons. One, a coarse masculine virago, determined that her child should be purified in the waters of "our mother the Gunga;" so having perfectly stripped the miserable sickly infant, she left her boat, dragging the patient by one arm, till reaching the cold water, she plunged it in, ducking it repeatedly with all her might, while the poor animal screamed and coughed alternately, enough to excite pity in the heart of the most hard-hearted old bachelor in India. When it seemed utterly exhausted by these gentle maternal ablutions, she dragged it back again about forty yards, in the same tender style, to be scrubbed dry in the boat!

Walked on shore in the evening, and for the first time saw the station church. It is a capacious and elegant, if not faultless, build-

ing, but for the want of a spire, more resembles a mess or assembly room, than a temple of God.

An attempt has been made to control the action of the current of the Ganges, on the banks adjacent, and as it displays some very pretty civil engineering, authorized, if not directed, by the Military Board, I shall indulge the reader with the details. In front of the bank ran a sheeting of saul piles, averaging ten inches in diameter, driven into the ground at an angle of about fifty degrees, and strengthened by having an abutment of brickwork at its bottom. The water side of these piles has been shingled, and the boards covered with tar. I saw no traces of *feathering*,—the only thing wanting to complete the job! To make up for this censurable deficiency, the shingles were nailed on the *wrong way*, so as to collect and retain dust, lodge rain, and consequently permit or rather encourage the growth of grass, weeds, and trees, with which it was covered. Although this system has not yet obtained, what an advantage it would prove to the roofs of shingled houses!

In most parts the piles were completely stripped of the shingle, and the action of the

water had washed away the earth behind the sheeting, to an extent varying from five to ten feet. Simple and cheap engineering does not suit; everything must be done according to precedent and rule, and no one in his senses would venture to innovate on ancient practices, formerly executed by some of its members!

To the majority of the bungalows belonging to officers are attached the most productive fruit, flower, and vegetable gardens, in this part of India. Many firs (cheers) and mountain plants, from Nipaul, lying exactly opposite, are to be found mingled with almost all of those produced on the lower parts of Bengal—such as cocoa-nuts, alligator-pears, African guavas, and Arabian date-trees. I have drank white wine of a fair quality, the manufacture of Deega farm, at the table of Lord Hastings. It was, however, slightly flavoured with a twang of cheenee, or brown sugar, which had been most injudiciously used to enrich it. This could not be got rid of for many years. M'Culloch's little instructive treatise on wine-making had not then seen the light. If the grapes had received fair play, it is not improbable but they might have

produced a pleasant liquor resembling Sauterne or some other light French wine.

Deega farm, once the head quarters of the highest style of Indian gastronomy, under the reign of the illustrious Havell, has now dwindled down into the most heart-rending insignificance! I was actually warned against purchasing edibles from the concern; I did, and was punished for my attachment to his memory! But

"Who can school the heart's affection? who dissuade from porklings young?"

That's not exactly the quotation, but it's something very similar.

Havell, after a few well fought campaigns, realized a handsome fortune, and retired to England, to learn the great moral lesson, that it is more profitable to sell than give away beef! He returned to make another, but India was too soon deprived of her bountiful *chef de cuisine* by death.

On his route to England, like the other great men of his day, previous to the settlement of his Indian affairs, he resided, *pro tempore*, in a splendid mansion in Chouringhee. When the period of his translation drew nigh, he held an auction of his "superb household

furniture, costly wines, elegant plate, rare Sevres and Dresden china, and splendid carriages and horses." I attended it.

In front of the mansion was a close-shaven emerald lawn. Around it crowded a dense band of intensely admiring niggurs. I peeped over their shoulders, to gratify my curiosity by discovering the cause. A beautiful little animal, scarcely eighteen inches high, was quietly grazing on the tender grass. It was tethered by a delicate cord of snowy cotton, fastened to a neat iron peg. Its skin which was of a silver grey, heightened on the shoulders to a rich glossy black velvet, shone brilliantly in the sun. Advancing to examine and admire it more closely, I put out my foot to scratch its head, when suddenly retreating back, before I could retire, it saluted my foot with a tremendous butt, which nearly floored me! The niggurs shouted with unaffected delight! I joined, as I always do whenever there is a good opportunity. The ring broke; Mr. Havell himself—the great, retiring Havell—advanced, and with one of those courteous bows which so eminently distinguished him, in his most urbane and condescending manner, laughed in my face! "Sir," said he, with that

genuine, endearing, rich Ulster brogue, that betrayed the country which had the honour of giving him entrance—"Sir, you had better mind how you behave! Sure that's a most independent gentleman, and has floored many a one already, let alone myself! He has a little wife, sir—in calf to him—who is a few inches lower than himself; and a neat pair they are, and the smallest I ever had!"

The story of Gulliver was realized; it was a bull, a dwarf of *the* dwarf or Gynee breed, and certainly most faultless in his proportions. The forehead was hairy and curled, "the front of Jove himself;" his hump pendulating and large; in fact, quite a miniature of those unwieldy animals which formerly used to enjoy the Orient privilege of devouring what grain or fruit they pleased in the streets of Calcutta, and occasionally goring to death a recreant and resisting buneea! Such of old were called "Braminee bulls." And such, I have heard, have been occasionally coaxed down, and quietly shipped on outward-bound ships, without any useless ceremony, bill of lading, or invoice. I have not yet seen one marked with the trident since my return. Now, "innocent Hindoos" are found to eat a beef-

steak, and wash it down at a public table, sitting amongst Melechas, with ale or porter!

Swarms of shoemakers, bearing huge baskets, full of shoes and boots of every description, for men, women, and children; Sôlah hatmakers, dealers in wax candles, table cloths and towels, besieged the boat during the day—all anxious to cheat their little possible.

The soldiers of the European regiment were allowed to act plays at a theatre within cantonments, which was visited by the principal nobility and gentry of the city and cantonments. Calling on the Major of Brigade, I picked up a very pleasant, agreeable, chatty fellow, who, from his looks, at first mistook me for a bailiff, but who subsequently owned, with tears in his eyes, that he had never been able to procure a perusal of my lucubrations in the Meerut Universal Magazine! I pitied him, but my copy, with marginal notes, was packed. The circumstance may appear incredible; but it must be recollected that he had been travelling in Russia, where it was a proscribed book! The gloomy autocrat, although intensely curious on all important matters connected with the East, had publicly declared that the introduction of such a scandalous

work, would ruin any government, *however paternal*, and that the punishment for a culprit detected in its perusal, should either be decapitation, or eternal banishment and degradation to himself and family in Siberia!

It seems, that before a copy could be secured for his private perusal, a red-mustachioed member of the Bengal civil service had communicated on the subject with a clerk in the Foreign Office, notoriously in the pay of Russia. No sooner had the copy been furnished to the emperor, than he commenced its perusal, and strict orders were given that he should not be disturbed! His closet door was locked in the face of his astonished valet. After a silence of about two hours and twenty-five minutes, a courier was dispatched for Menzikoff, who was that night present at a ball given by the empress at the summer palace. He arrived breathless with haste, and was instantly carried to the closet door. He listened a few minutes, and the words "Clos St. Thierry" were all that could be heard, amidst shouts of laughter. At last, being brought to the greatest possible excitement, Menzikoff deemed it prudent to dispatch a second cossack for the learned Dr. Dronkasfiski, on whose arrival, appre-

hending treason, it was determined to break open the door, as the emperor had hitherto refused to return any answer to their repeated and anxious inquiries. It was done! they found their august master sitting in an easy chair, with four empty bottles of Clos St. Thierry on a circular table before him, perfectly in the wind, and vainly endeavouring to repeat the words—"Capital! Scytabosagitti pelliger. Good night! Shut the door after you! Excellent companions these! Ha, ha! See, the bottles are empty! The light is out."

So much for the sealed and proscribed work! Cruel and selfish man! may your best vintages of the Don turn musty and sour! may your Burgundies become crusty, and may the traitorous, red-mustachioed Bengal civil servant, be well singed with Lane's translations of the Arabian Nights in the lower House of Commons! What a text for future D'Israelis! Such are the secrets of despotic cabinets!

20th.—Passed at the station. *Perdidi diem.*

21st.—Dropped down, and soon after we were boarded by a river pirate, offering to sell mullets at a most enormous price. The river widening rapidly. About mid-day, passed a two-storied Ionic palace, belonging to the Rajah

of Bettiah, a district lying under the mountains of Nipaul, but under our paternal sway, famous for the abundance of its turkies. His highness visits Patna annually, with a huge train of camp followers, for the convenience of bathing in, and worshipping, the Ganges. The building is flanked by two small circular bastions at the edge of the river.

A few score yards lower down stands another palace, belonging to the Dettiah Rajáh, who dwells in his principality in Bundelcund, but visits the Gunga for a similar purpose. This building is erected on pure Anglo-Indian principles. Close to these, I observed from whom the method of securing the bank of the river at Dinapoor had been borrowed. The native engineer, however, has placed the planks smoothly, or edge to edge, and not shingled them the wrong way.

A great part of the forenoon was consumed in passing the long city of Patna. The banks of the river were ornamented with grotesque buildings, palms, and much rich foliage, and the river itself, with thousands of picturesque boats, for transporting merchandise, each differing from its neighbour. Their diversity is most astonishing, and not the result of accident

but of design, which accounts for it very naturally.

On being asked if there was any wind, the mânjee answered "Huwa murgya"—"the wind has died away;" exactly what a Deal sailor would have said. "A curious coincidence this,"—as the man said who fell into a well.

A little before morning, on the right hand, we passed a bridge of many arches; but I could not prevail on any of the crew to mention its name. Perhaps it would have been deemed unlucky.

22nd.—Unloosed at half-past five. Our course led us through several small branches of the Ganges, and we grounded repeatedly, although very lightly laden. A budgerow with a heavy cargo of Bungalees, pulling up the stream, happening to meet us, believing it to be the boat of a river trader, proceeding with "notions" from Calcutta, I called out lustily for some raspberry jam; but, alas! one of the proprictor's servants informed me that he was quite ignorant of the article, and so far from being the boat of a tradesman, that it belonged to a rich Bungalee zemindar, on pilgrimage from Bhangulpore to Kâshee!

That any man could with truth barefacedly

acknowledge his ignorance of raspberry jam, at this time of the day, must appear surprising to European readers, considering that Hoffman has been deluging the land with three and six pound pots, for more than forty, and Gunter and Hooper for upwards of twenty years! Can there be (at bottom) any hope of such a race? And yet I perceived, *en passant*, that their females were by no means deficient in lady-like curiosity, if I might judge from the frequent opening of the venetians, or jalousies, of the ladies' apartments, to enable them to gaze at the Feringee.

Lugâod at night under the village of Bar, and, as usual, walked in the suburbs. My senses were frequently regaled by the pleasant odours emanating from small native rum distilleries, in full work. At last, getting tired, I sat down on a log of wood, within fifty yards of my boat. Several native women and well grown girls, all of the lower orders, stood gazing at me, within a few yards, and close to their own huts. To my no small surprise, I overheard them instigating some mischievous boys, who had been at play, to insult me, as a joke, with the most gross and obscene language, and teaching them the very phrases!

At first I thought that I might be mistaken; but I soon heard the boys ask, if it were not probable that I should understand, and beat them? Curious to know how this would terminate, I determined to remain; and the boys, feeling satisfied with my ignorance, began, at first from a little distance, and gradually advancing, gaining "moral" courage from my seeming inattention, (but looking back, so as to secure a retreat,) at last uttered the most filthy expressions, at which my poor dark sisters laughed most heartily! Pray what became of the "inherent modesty of their sex," Mr. Casuist? Is not this proof, that decency is a matter of longitude and latitude? More than twenty years had elapsed since I had heard Bungalee spoken, and this was most certainly a curious greeting! Bungalee, until this, sounded in my ears as an almost unknown tongue.

The velocity of the river, during this day, apparently varied from half a mile to two miles and a half an hour, being a succession of pools and currents.

23rd.—The morning ushered in by a thick fog over the country, which, as usual, lasted until after sunrise. I snatched up my teles-

cope, to examine an object which was swimming in the middle of the river, and discovered that it was a common pariar dog, crossing where it was at least one thousand yards wide! It was assailed by many crows.

Arrived before breakfast at Chuckbully ghat, on the left side, and going on shore, was surprised to find the difference in the maturity of the grains between it and Allahabad. Urhur, which I had left only four feet high, here already reached the height of nine. Joâr, cropped in the beginning of October, was here unripe, and not fit for cutting for the next ten days; Indian corn, here low and unripe, had been gathered nearly two months ago at Allahabad.

The ploughing here, although very irregular, was the deepest and best that I had ever seen out of England, and the drill husbandry in very high perfection. Large quantities of wheat are dispatched from this neighbourhood, both to Dinapoor and Calcutta, at which latter place, it is principally consumed at the Strand mills; the natives living almost exclusively on the crops produced by the rainy season.

Tirhoot has long been famous for its large

cultivation of the finer sorts of indigo, by a set of jolly planters.

24th.—Still at the ghat; visited a large burgot tree, probably some thousand years old, about five hundred yards lower down. The boughs spread over a space of a hundred yards in diameter. The tree consisted of sixty or seventy stems, from a foot and a half to three feet in diameter, and averaging, perhaps, eighty feet high. Great part had been blown down in the gales of the preceding April. Here was a large space of most fertile soil, producing no return at all to the proprietors,—the wood being wholly unfit even for burning; but the boughs afford shelter to thousands of paroqueets and other birds, that consume the crops. The tree is holy—there's the secret!

I heard from good authority, that the lakes and rivers of Tirhoot swarm with alligators, which are exceedingly destructive both to man and beast—attacking the former with the greatest ferocity, and eating up ducks and geese *au naturel!*

25th.—Christmas day, and spent at the ghat—*dies non.*

26th.—Weather foggy, cloudy, and threatening rain; three hours after unloosing, saw

the distant hills in the neighbourhood of Monghyr. The banks of the rivers in these parts are carried away at a fearful rate during every rainy season, and hundreds of noble trees are uprooted, to fall, and become almost permanent nuisances in the river.

Being very anxious to reach Monghyr, I inquired of one of the dandies, at what place we should *probably* fasten for the night? To which insidious question, he answered in the most pious tone conceivable, "Wherever God may carry us!"

So deeply are these amiable foragers imbued with reverential awe of Gunga, Hoonooman, Krishnoo, and his theeka consort, Râdha, and some thousand other gods and goddesses, that they dare not answer the most commonplace question, lest it should displease them and bring ill luck.

Nothing worthy of record during the day, but the exquisitely beautiful tints on the distant woody hills a little before sunset, every now and then obscured by a palm.

Moored at night at Sumpshere ghat, which is a landing place on a large chur, or recently formed island, in the middle of the river. The population was confined to the inhabitants of

two small huts, one of which was a distillery, from the sweet petals of the mowa. Large quantities of the raw material were soaking and fermenting in large earthen jars, buried up to their necks in the sand. The process of distillation (with exception of the worm, which was of bamboo) was also carried on in earthen jars. The demand must be limited to the crews of a few boats which fasten here during the night.

Indigo and other valuable cold-weather crops are now raised on the island; but the former at great risk, as it is liable to be flooded.

27th.—At nine in the morning, reached the village and fort of Monghyr. This is a spot selected for its cheapness, salubrity, and temperate climate, by many, if not the majority of invalid officers. The houses of the English residents are generally situated in the fort. Many of them are of two stories; some painted a bright orange, relieved with white. Some of the bastions of the fort are still standing; but the abutments are in general worn away by the current. The town, from the river, appears to be ornamented with numerous gay Hindoo temples; and the effect of the whole is highly picturesque.

Observed an English gentleman taking his recreation in a pleasure-boat, accompanied by his faithful companions, Dash and Juno. He carried a St. George's ensign.

While walking on shore, I was accosted by a very smooth-faced black shaver, glorying in the admired and suitable appellation of Tom Jones! After volunteering to shave me, he acquainted me, with great gravity and solemnity of manner, that he himself was a military man, and had followed his Majesty's gallant 14th foot to Bhurtpore. Nay, more—that during the campaign, he had the honour of shaving the very commander-in-chief, Lord Combermere, and the whole of the officers of the above regiment!

A filthy faqueer being squatted on the ground near us, while discoursing, I inquired of the gallant veteran whether he had the honour of officiating as his goroo (or spiritual guide)? This was a little *trop fort* for my brother soldier, for he answered indignantly, "No! when I want *whitewash*, I get him from English pâsson!" Here is proof that Tom has been in good society!

To be close to expected customers, the tradesmen of the village erect temporary buildings of

thatch and bamboo, and then exercise their trades on the sandy beach. Furniture of all kinds, and of various beautiful woods, is both abundant and cheap. Gunsmiths produce pistols and fowling-pieces, whether of smooth bores or rifled, with detonating locks, closely resembling those of European workmen, at exceedingly low prices; and were the engraving on the locks as good as the finish of other parts, even connoisseurs might be deceived.

A deaf gunsmith, who had served under Mr. Manton, in Calcutta, consulted me for a remedy. He called his former master "Manton Mistree." A very great improvement was visible both in the wood and iron work since I formerly passed this way. They are now beginning to pay attention to finish, and if they enjoyed the advantage of good and sober European superintendants, I think their firearms might be made to equal any in the world. They do not scruple, previous to purchase, to allow you to try their barrels with a most enormous chargè. The iron used is entirely native, but the steel English.

One shopkeeper courted the favour of passengers by a list of European articles, and of him I bought a small supply of a "hot intoxicating

liquor, much drank by the lower orders," at a moderate rate; but, on tasting it, discovered, when too late, that all flavour of wine, if it ever had any, had departed, and that a black crust and bad brandy and water were all that remained.

One eager merchant offered to supply me with Seeta Coon water, which is carried bottled to sea by people who are fond of the pure element. I was informed that a very small and beautiful species of deer, not above a foot high, is occasionally purchaseable at the station. It is found in the neighbouring forests. It breeds in a tame state as well as a rabbit, and can be kept, like them, in boxes.

The old course of the river Ganges having greatly varied, the famous Seeta Coon well is now at a considerable distance from the bank, and hence it is seldom visited. It is, however, as great a natural curiosity as any I ever beheld in India. The hand cannot be retained above a very few seconds in the bubbling water. Large quantities of some gas are disengaged every instant from the centre of the basin. Rice, when thrown in, is speedily swoollen, and floats on the surface. I regret that I had no thermometer with me to ascer-

tain the precise heat. When I visited it, it was surrounded by pilgrims, who bathed in a second pool adjoining. In this they were speedily regenerated by the officiating priests, at a stipulated price of a few pice per head.

The following scene made a deep impression on my mind. Two priests had secured a yokel, and after dragging him to the holy water, each attempted to force him to repeat their own formulary. The simpleton was so thoroughly alarmed at their pious enthusiasm, that he could not command his attention to either,—and thus his head was continually turning from one side to another. After a few minutes, the ceremony having been performed, he presented each with a few pice, when they jointly pushed him out of the way, with an emphatic Jâ!—go! The countenance of the victim expressed the most reverential awe, while those of both priests were perfectly diabolic, with eyes glistening like those of serpents.

It strikes me that warm baths could be erected at a trifling expense, or that the heat of the water might be employed for the manufacture of silk from cocoa-nut: it is certainly a curious fact, that no attempt has ever been

made to discover how high the spring would rise through tubes.

28th.—Strong contrary winds during the whole day—our boat whirling round and round. At last we turned a point, and then profited by a favourable gale. Passed the celebrated rock of Jungheera (once in deep water), now standing on a bank of sand.

A little inland, with my telescope, I discovered the dwelling-house of a niggur-nee, or native lady of rank. The mansion is situated in a large park, and appears highly commodious. The atmosphere during the day was moist and heavy, resembling that of the upper provinces after a heavy shower of rain.

29th.—About mid-day passed the civil station of Bhangulpore, on our right. It was formerly bounded by the river, but has at present an extensive bed of sand in front. Wind highly favourable for the greater part of the day; but in the afternoon it suddenly changed, and our boat was cast with great velocity on the bank, a little above the three rocky islands, called the rocks of Colgong. These consist of huge blocks of rock, smoothed by time, and having their fissures covered by stunted trees. They are probably from fifty to sixty feet high.

To the right, on a little eminence, stands a comfortable house, probably the abode of some indigo planter. Fastened our boat a few miles lower down, under the right bank, near an indigo factory, situated on a very pleasant, but I fear unhealthy spot, at the foot of a low hill, nearly cleared of its brushwood. The house was upper-roomed; but after it was finished, the owner remembered that it had no bay room. Now it is a law of nature, that all Indian houses must have at least one bay room; so one was run up, but, unfortunately, the architect (I suspect a descendant of Indigo Jones!) placed the floor of the upper story of the bay room, on a different level with the others, and thus the appearance from the outside is supremely ridiculous.

On walking to inspect the aqueduct, by which water was conducted to a large reservoir, for the subsequent use of the steeping vats, I discovered another mark of his professional genius. Having been somewhat puzzled as to the most suitable description of arch, to be quite certain, he had constructed no less than five different descriptions of curves, all of different diameters.

During the night, wolves howled incessantly from the neighbouring hills.

CHAPTER V.

Immense quantities of fish—Cultivation of potatoes—Pastoral scene—Sporting ground—Colin, of Nantes—Rajmuhal—A palace turned to a coal-hole!—Effects of time—Singular situation of Rajmuhal—Philosophy and politics—Tiffin—Immense flock of pelicans—Their singular habits—Lugâod—A meeting with an old friend—Cure for ague—A telescopic view—Bogwangola—Civil cantonments at Rampore—Destructive character of the Ganges—Captain and Mrs. Warner—An English girl—Unhealthiness of tanks—Rapids of the Ganges—Manufacture of indigo—Native curiosity—Cross-questioning—Dhacca river—Dolphin of the Ganges.

December 30th.—A fleet of eight deeply laden and fast sailing boats overtook and passed us, destined to supply the bazars of Rajmuhal, Bogwangola, and Monshudabad, with their cargoes of live fish, which are carried in

wells communicating with the river. These are caught, either in the rivers descending from the range of hills bounding our territories, which fall into the Ganges, or they are the produce of the drainings of the immense jheels, or marshes, in the Poorâneeah and other neighbouring districts. Such actually swarm with rohoos, cutlahs, and other of the genus cyprinus, and the quantity to be procured by the process is quite incredible. The water of the Poorâneeah river is absolutely unfit for drinking, from its "ancient, and most fish-like smell" and taste, during the dry season.

A person lying over the side of a boat in that river may observe (as I have done) the myriads of great and small fishes that are continually passing. To Englishmen, they are barely edible, from their extreme muddiness; but no native of low degree would ever object to such a trifle. They would, and I think judiciously, smother the mud with turmeric and other spices, and thus transform it into a fish curry.

While approaching the mountain passes of Sikree Gullee, I observed that the hills had been much stripped of jungle since my visit in

1819. Numerous large patches of ground were now cultivated with Indian corn. I am of opinion that potatoes of very fine quality might be grown here to any required extent, for the supply of the Calcutta market during the latter part of the rains, when those from Patna begin to spoil. The drainage, as at Simla, would be perfect, and the soil is highly favourable. They might be planted at the end of the cold weather.

In the evening, after lugâoing at the village of Sikree Gullee, I walked through the grounds attached to the bungalow of an indigo planter, into the village opposite, lying on the slope of the hill.

The only articles visible in the bazar, besides those usually found, were neatly prepared bundles of fine grass, about four and a half feet long, intended for making ropes, and a stock of fire-wood, for passing boats.

The cows belonging to the hamlet were returning to their respective homes, many of them bearing large cylindrical iron bells hanging from their necks. The combined effect of their loud lowings, the responsive bleatings of the calves, and the monotonous sounds of the bells, in the calm evening, was exceedingly

pastoral and pleasant, producing a gentle reverie.

I saw bands of weary travellers, with heavy bundles on their backs, searching for shelter amongst the villagers; but could see no seraee to which they could resort. The situation of the bungalow is beautifully romantic; commanding, as it does, a most lovely and extensive view of the river and adjoining hills, crowned with eternal verdure, and itself almost shaded by dense masses of hanging wood, of various hues and figures. The turf was green, thick, and matted, resembling a soft and delicate carpet to the feet. The air was calm and cool.

Capital sport may be enjoyed, in the highest perfection, within a mile of the village. Tigers, leopards, bears, and it is said even rhinoceroses, abound; with various sorts of deer, hogs, hares, peacocks, common wild fowls, and black partridges in abundance. On foot, shooting would, of course, be rather dangerous; but on an elephant, many years ago, Lord Hastings found most capital sport.

Our boat was moored in the small tranquil bay, where we passed the night in peace and comfort; only startled occasionally, when the

unwieldy porpoise returned to the surface to breathe.

To thee, oh, Colin, of Nantes, must I again publicly offer thanks; for I dined daintily on a small part of one of your exquisite veal pies *truffé*. *Tibi gratias mi*, Colin! *Vale!*

31st.—A slight rain ushered in the balmy morn; but it ceased about ten o'clock. The range of Rajmuhal hills begin to appear. Passed a large indigo factory, and mansion, on the east bank of the Ganges, nearly opposite the now ruined village of Rajmuhal.

Landed there before mid-day, and commenced exploring through the dense wood, in the direction of the ruins of the ancient palaces. On reaching them, I found that they had suffered severely during the last twenty years. (So have I!) At that remote period, it was in part occupied as a magistrate's cutchery; but now, it was converted into a coal depôt for the river steamer of the Company, and its floors were covered to the depth of several inches with the debris of a very inferior coal!

The progress of ruination still proceeded. The zemindar's servants, with his carts, were busily employed in removing the beams from the roof of the veranda of the once proud

Mussulman palace, to his own mud-built residence!

When I formerly passed it, I exceedingly admired the elliptical curve of the almost flat roofs, not only of the veranda, but also of the large central hall. I was much astonished at the advances which the Mohammedan masons (ancestors of Meerun Mistree) had made in the science of constructing such very flat arches. But time, that cruel test of all superficialities—of thin claret, of heavy poetry, and thick-soled shoes—time had proved that the roofs were constructed of large beams, and that the admirable curve had been obtained by the ingenious application of lath and plaster!

Time solves all mysteries and problems; even the greatest, which leads us to the gates of eternity. How much do we owe to time, which at once, and as it pleases, renders past events clear or obscure! Time separates the dross from the ore, or mingles them together. Time deadens all joys sublunary, blunts our razors, and alleviates our sorrows—especially dinner time!

I was greatly struck with the exceeding density, with the "boundless contiguity of

shade," in which the natives appeared to reside with such comfort. Place the rankest weeds—the most filthy, green, fat-scummed pools—the most umbrageous clumps of low, spreading bamboos, sprouting pollards, towering palms, tall feathery dates, and low dead, or high living fences together — "mingle, mingle, all that mingle may"—and through them cast a stench the most villanous and nauseating, whether proceeding from decomposition of substances animal or vegetable—put all these together in your imagination, and you will have a slight idea of the *agrémens* of the shady suburbs and village of Rajmuhal!

But enter the village as an artist, and how massive, rich, and varied is the foliage! What exquisite foregrounds, for Ruysdael or Hobbima! What splendid lights and solemn murky shades, for Rembrandt! What brutal, filthy clowns, for Teniers! And what villanous hairy faqueers, rugged stumps, mouldering ruins, and shocking old women, for Salvator! Reader! never look upon anything with one pervading train of thought, unless it be a pâté of Colin's. It is a sheer waste of perception; a gross misuse of the powers of the mind.

If the subject be dull and depressing, endeavour to make it ridiculous, or convert it into something cheerful and gay, and thus triumph over what might make a jackass jump into a well or swallow opium.

Large masses of the palace are now lying in the river.

I stayed here for about two hours, enjoying the scene exceedingly. I procured food for wholesome meditation, and my dandies obtained provisions for their bodies. They thought of the cheapness of rice—I of the utter vanity of everything temporal. The book lay open, and before my eyes. The Hindoo has not here left a vestige of his political power. The Mussulman is to be traced by his noble ruins. The reign of Mohammed has already received its death blow, from which it can never recover, throughout the whole world—whether at Algiers, Tunis, Navarino, or Ghuznee. The English and Christianity are in the ascendant; but the silent, yet powerful spirit of the age, likewise advances—an age that claims and exerts the right of judging, and, it may be, of condemning the acts of its rulers. In the present day, man does not choose to be governed without reasons; he must know why

he is taxed; why he is to be subjected to—Tiffin? Buxoo Bhâee, is tiffin really ready? Then let us haste to the remains of the gracious veal pie, which, with a delicate haunch of gram-fed mutton, and a mullet or two, shall to-day compose our simple meal.

As we proceeded, I discovered sixty or seventy pelicans, sitting in solemn conclave on a sand-bank in the middle of the river. It was evidently a fishery question. The opposition calling upon ministers for explanation of the extraordinary course they appeared to be pursuing:—infringement of treaties, and other grave matter.

Pelicans are very curious animals. The Poorâneeah nullah, or river, seems their favourite head fishing quarters; but unless at the great lake in Bootan, it is not yet discovered where they breed. As fast as your dandies can pull, so fast, and no faster, do the pelicans paddle up, at the distance of two-hundred yards a head.

They must be approached and shot by artifice, being, like Theodore Hook's cornuto—"so very particular."

Lugâod at night on a large chur, full thirty feet high above the river, perfectly overgrown

with rank grass, and wholly unfit for any pasturage but that of wild buffaloes or hogs. The soil excellently adapted for any or everything, being a flat loamy clay. Traces of the annual inundation were to be found in the inclination given by the current to the seed stalks of the grass.

January 1st, 1840.—The wind, although fortunately weak, was right in our teeth during the whole day; so that we could not advance but by dint of rowing, a labour extremely ill-suited to the emaciated crew of my boats.

Fastened, in the evening, on a sand-bank; and soon after, perceiving a very large budgerow preparing to follow my example, I inquired, and discovered it to be that of an old friend, who was confined to his couch by the remains of a fever caught in Calcutta. He was accompanied by his two sisters, and a third young lady, who had braved the stormy ocean, under a promise of marriage from one in a far, and (I must add) hot countrie! This temptation had proved successful; and for the credit of our sex, the promise has been speedily redeemed by a twofold solemnity.

My friend's sisters were very lady-like, pleasing young women. The father was a

much respected old soldier in his day, and I hope his son will follow his excellent example. As they were proceeding to Agra, and I to Dhacca, we parted with mutual grief. To alleviate the pangs of natural regret, I sent them a hind quarter of gram-fed mutton, and my blessing.

For my friend, I prescribed quinine and salts—the happiest combination against ague with which I am acquainted. It does two things well; which is contrary to the general rule.

2nd.—Contrary wind; so that we were actually obliged to pull down the river.

About ten o'clock, saw the Bhangurettee, or Mohanna branch of the Ganges, here first divided, proceeding to the City of Palaces; but the left proceeds undefiled to the sea. Nearly at the fork, stands a roomy pucca, lower-roomed house. Gazing at it steadfastly with my telescope, I observed the following strange things:—

1. A stout gentleman striding up and down the veranda, as if he thought such exercise a personal duty.

2. A young lady of an elegant figure, with

her hair neatly braided *en Grec*, wearing a grey cloak, with black silk cape.

3. A young gentleman, in white jacket and pantaloons—the latter a little soiled.

4. A black and white spaniel, with tail *au naturel*, of King Charles's breed, (which, like my friends the Syuds, are rather common in India;) a grey calf, two goats, and lastly, two thatchers, who were occupied in repairing the veranda roof.

Two cotton don't-exactly-know-what-to-call-thems, were suspended on a string before the bed-room door, at the western end of the mansion. They were not marked with any initials, so I lament that I cannot gratify your curiosity. I shall now undertake to show up the *dramatis personæ*.

The first was manifestly papa, a planter and widower; the young lady with grey cloak, and black cape, his daughter, recently returned from Europe. The young gentleman was one of papa's assistants at an out factory, on a temporary visit, to enjoy a bit of Christmas cake and a little flirtation! Not that papa gave him any encouragement—but why did he quit the veranda first, and leave them behind?

Was such a course prudent? Was he never young himself? I don't blame the young people, but telescopes are sad tell-tales—very.

3rd.—The day again cloudy, with slight sprinkling of rain during the night; and in the morning the wind contrary. At nine o'clock, found ourselves opposite Bogwangola, a long straggling temporary village on our right, situated on the edge of a barren chur, or sand-bank. The whole village is removed during the rains, the island being still subjected to the annual inundation. It is a celebrated mart for growing indigo seed and gobur. Chillies and kundas are occasionally purchaseable at moderate rates in the neighbouring villages, during their respective seasons, but ooplas must be previously commissioned.

Dropping down, soon reached a bungalow, with a colonnaded veranda, called Kurcheka factory, on the left bank. I dispatched a servant with a note, soliciting the latest Calcutta papers, which were immediately sent me with the greatest politeness, along with fresh bread and butter, gingerbread nuts, and further offers of services.

While awaiting an answer, I took the opportunity of stretching my limbs ashore, and

found a stratum of almost pure carbonate of soda, as white and clean as kitchen salt, fully an inch and a half thick.

The branch of the great river was here again re-split into innumerable smaller ones, rendering the navigation exceedingly difficult. It was necessary to make almost endless inquiries, from the passing mangees of other boats, which task was undertaken by ours. His inquiries invariably commenced with a little flattery, suited to his hearers,—such as "Oh, meetoowa!"—oh, you sweet one! (evidently derived from *meeta, dulcis.*) Any rude or abrupt address was never answered.

Before sunset, reached the civil cantonments of Rampore Beaulieu. The first mansion was a lower-roomed house within eighty yards of the river, with a handsome Doric colonnade.

The banks of the station are in part already destroyed by the Ganges. A bay was formed during one rainy season, which was found to be no less than sixty feet deep, when its repair was contemplated. The embankments for excluding the river are merely low, broad mud walls—viz., twenty feet broad, by four feet and a half high. Notwithstanding these, the country was overflowed the year before last.

Almost all the houses here are permanent buildings; the roads turfy and good. Rampore was formerly an extensive silk factory, belonging to the Honourable Company, for the production of raw silk. They abandoned the manufacture at the expiration of the last charter; but it is still carried on, although in a much inferior manner, by the firm of Watson and Co.

During the dry season, as the steamers pass this way *en route* to Allahabad, a large quantity of coals is deposited under a shed for their use. I found the coals of a much superior quality to those at Rajmuhal.

4th.—Still at the station. Visited the race-course, where the racers are now in training, in company with Dr. Wilson, the civil surgeon, who kindly conveyed me there in his buggy. During their exercise, one of the nags took a sudden whim to return home, and so, instead of going round, suddenly charged the bamboo railing, and bolted through. His rider, to use the elegant phraseology of well-educated Bungalees, was "precipitated into the precincts," but providentially escaped unhurt.

Breakfasted and dined with Captain and

Mrs. Warner, and during both meals, such was my good fortune, that I sat on the right of a sweet, gentle, and most interesting English girl. When she first entered the parlour, although dying with hunger, I thought that I never saw any one more purely and delightfully English.

In the station I was much struck with the undesirable proximity between the houses and the tanks. In the upper provinces, no one would ever dream of living in a house close to a large tank. No medical man would suffer a patient to reside an hour in such a situation. He would furnish M'Culloch on Malaria for his perusal, and would himself anticipate ague, tertian, quartan, hysteria, headache, rheumatism, cholera, or plain, remittent, bilious fever; and from experience; but here, tanks are to be found in shameless contiguity, and in almost every garden.

5th.—Started at daybreak: wind cold and contrary. Passed some permanent buildings, and a handsome dwelling house, said to be a silk factory, on the left; and a little lower down, the mouth of a river leading to Dhacca, but which our mangee discovered in time was not sufficiently deep for our boats. Came to

a rapid, where the strength of the river was so great, that boats remained for many days tied up, that they might avail themselves of the assistance of other crews in pulling past it.

An indigo factory on the left hand. Lugâod in the evening at Lalpore factory, one of the many belonging to Messrs. Watson and Co. The steeping vats are supplied from the Ganges, and I found the bottom of the reservoirs covered by a coating of clay, full two inches thick—next to rain, the purest of solvents. I should *à priori* imagine that the water of rivers would prove the most powerful for indigo leaf; but here is proof that some process should be adopted, and, perhaps, repeated, for cleansing it from impurities—either by filtration upwards or downwards, through deep beds of sand, previously cleaned during the preceding hot season. The expense would prove but trifling in either mode, and would consist in the erection of an additional strong brick-built reservoir.

As it is now conducted, I feel satisfied (although I have heard to the contrary) that the quality of indigo must be greatly deteriorated by the impurity of the water. Planters of experience may think otherwise; and, if

any one of them will take the trouble of undeceiving me, I shall feel obliged to him. I merely suggest a hint.

Took my evening walk, surrounded by obsequious Bungalees. Tried hard to make them laugh, but found it as impossible as if they had been guests in Government-house, where only occasional smiles are permitted! None of them could speak English, but they all possessed ample funds of curiosity, which they directed to their own good ends.

They cross-questioned me on the following points, with considerable skill, grounding their questions on my inquiries.

1. Whether I had any, and how many, factories of my own?

2. My destination?

3. The price of grain at the various places I had visited during my twenty-six years' pilgrimage?

They appeared quite delighted to think that Bengal produced more and cheaper rice than any other country in India. They looked triumphantly at each other, when this interesting fact was communicated.

I, on the other hand, was pleased with the expression of superior intelligence in their

features; but I did not venture, as did a friend of mine, to ask whether they thought me handsome? The answer given to him was too discouraging: "Handsome? Oh no! not handsome, but respectable!"

For the first time, I saw a cane plant, but it was stunted in its growth, and choked by other shrubs.

6th.—Loosened at daybreak, and about ten grounded on an invisible sand-bank, in the middle of the river, but got speedily afloat again, and enjoyed a strong and favourable wind.

A little before sunset, entered the Pudda, or Powna nuddee, or river, called also the Dhacca river; by way of variety, I presume. Walked on shore in the evening; remarked the heavy crop of dhoob grass, and swarms of prowling jackals surrounding the village. The fishes were joyously jumping in the river, as if they knew that it was Twelfth Day.

Amongst them I observed, for the first time, a large fawn-coloured animal, in shape resembling a porpoise, but from the rapidity of its motions, I could not discover whether or not it had a similar snout: it is probably the Gangetic dolphin.

CHAPTER VI.

Doves and larks—Native politeness—Village of Titulee—Wild women—Burial place—Bengalee sheep—Picturesque scenery—Fire-flies—Singing birds of India—Delicious fish—Singular oars—Native serenading—A quarrel—Sepoys—No trusting to appearances—Noisy neighbours—Pelicans and wild geese—Immense shoal of mullets—Singular clouds—The plantain—Village of Sabbur—Shoal of dolphins—Native knavery—Approach to Dhacca—The City of muslins—Wild oranges of Sylpet—Description of Dhacca—A dangerous position—Bazar—Youth and sympathy—Singular savage—An elephant merchant—Native incredulity—The Nabob of Dhacca—Native extravagance—English policy in India—Education and agriculture—Tests of good government.

Jan. 7th.—Before daybreak, I was awakened by the dulcet cooing of the doves, and the songs of the soaring skylarks, which were both peculiarly delightful, and "beautiful exceedingly."

For one lark in England, here there are a hundred, all up and chanting at once; and the doves are almost innumerable, and of many varieties.

The politeness of my manjee rises with his necessities, and increases in the direct ratio of the intricacy of the navigation. Anxious to discover the safest route, every manjee whom we meet is described as "Chowdree," (or chief,) or "Meetowa," and in other endearing terms—without which, one river niggur seldom or never addresses another. If no answer be received, one of the dandies, who does the little waggery, during the intervals of the questions, loads them with abuse of the most indecent kind, *sotto voce*, to the great delight and enjoyment of our boat's crew.

At ten, entered a paltry river, not broader than the Thames at Gravesend, running north, on whose bank we found a little village, called Titulee. Observing a large group, I reconnoitred with my telescope, on seeing which, one of the ladies screamed and took to her heels. The same circumstance occurred several times. On expressing my surprise at such folly, the dandies explained to me, that they were evidently junglees, or wild women,

and feared that I intended shooting them ; a practice, which (I must observe *en passant*), however sanctioned by immemorial custom, I conceive to be at once tyrannical and cruel in the extreme—in fact, but little better than murderous; and I am of opinion that government would discourage it, if officially reported to them through the proper channel. I have done my duty, and hope to escape censure in having noticed it.

The river had at last become so narrow, that we were obliged to pass from one side to another, and in consequence, experienced both difficulty and delay in moving, owing to the number of boats and strength of the wind.

Passed a small indigo factory on the left bank. The river, or creek, was here not one hundred yards broad, and its banks were so neatly sloped, that I could not help believing it had been artificially created. Close to some pawn gardens, the bank for some hundred yards was strewed with mats, bamboo frames, châpâces, or beds, and filthy cotton pillows. Such is the integrity of the natives, that none are found so abandoned as to steal them !

This is the spot to which dead bodies are brought to be thrown into the river, and where

the sick are exposed until they die—no marks of concremation were visible.

A flock of red Bengalee sheep were driven down to the river to drink, and on seeing them, the dandies hastily called me out of the cabin, that I might not miss the opportunity of seeing the foreigners! They were certainly very different from those of Patna, Agnore, or Simla. I hope we shall soon become better acquainted, for my own flock is now much diminished.

Passed a very extensive indigo factory, with superb lower-roomed house, and avenue of noble trees. The water for the vats is supplied from the river.

The banks of this small stream were occasionally highly picturesque, swarming with native craft, and clothed to the very edge with the rich massive foliage of the bamboo, plantain, and mango, relieved by beetel-nut, presenting a most animated scene.

The roofs of the cottages were entirely of grass and bamboo, and their curves were infinitely diversified: some elliptical, others parabolic, &c., but none straight. In my evening walk, I discovered that almost every bush contained the cane creeper.

While sitting after dinner in the open air, enjoying the reflection of the stars on the calm water, I saw what appeared to be a concealed light, creeping quietly towards the boat. I hailed, but received no answer; but the light suddenly shifted its position, and then gradually slid up the bank. Being now convinced that it was a thief reconnoitring, I hailed repeatedly, when, as if to undeceive me, it slowly approached, and proved to be a fire-fly!

8th.—Awakened by the grateful cooings of idle, amorous doves, and loud exquisite pipings of the ravishing shâma—here a common bird. His notes are as loud and piercing, and certainly not less melodious, than those of our English blackbird. I cannot sufficiently admire the ignorance, folly, and prejudice of those who will not admit that there is a singing bird in India. I, who *do* listen to them whenever they sing, feel persuaded that there are several, infinitely superior to those of England: although I do not know their names, I am familiar with the persons and notes of scores, which I have heard in all parts of India. In Marwar, there is one that sings all night, and he is also found in Bundelcund. Let any man who wishes to hear a beautiful, continuous volume of melody,

stray amongst the bouquets of Marley Vale, after a shower of rain, in May or June.

The country on both sides is covered with heavy crops of surson, or rape, now in full bloom; and nothing, excepting always the glorious Aberdeenshire whin, can equal the gaiety of its appearance.

Procured some Pufta and Mohé fishes for breakfast. The former are something like a herring, in size and appearance, and are delicate eating. The latter would be a delicious fish, if edible, but from the immense number of its small bones, it must prove a rather dangerous visitor for delicate internals; but when you get a very large one, you will find the belly part a most luscious morsel. The remaining part will be found equal to hilsa, for converting into tamarind fish—a good thing, in a small way, for an extempore breakfast.

The oars of my boat have hitherto escaped description, of which they are well worthy. They are fixed, in the first place, at an angle of thirty degrees from the side of the vessel, and not at right angles; so, when they are pulled, the water is pushed to the side of the boat, and not parallel to it. Instead of being fastened on a level with the water, their tips

merely enter it, at an angle of about forty-five degrees: so for the maximum of animal labour in lifting them, they obtain the minimum of propelling power; and all the boats on the Ganges enjoy these advantages.

During the night, we were most pleasantly serenaded by a band of ruffianly Bungalees, over their toddy, who were murdering "The manly heart," "Hail! Albert, hail!" (as performed at Government-house,) and "Bid me discourse,"—in a most riotous and wanton manner.

During my short evening walk, I discovered that the dense belt of wood along the river side did not extend backward more than 150 yards, and that the space beyond was an extensive plain, covered with rather poor crops of grain, mixed with linseed and the flowery surson, or rape: the whole ill weeded and slovenly in the extreme.

9th.—The river, or creek, eternally winding, never presents a reach 500 yards long. I could easily believe it to be artificial from one end to the other, such is the extreme regularity of the slopes of the banks on both sides. From this circumstance, I am inclined to believe that the cutting of canals must be a work of easy accomplishment in these parts of Bengal.

Our mangee is beginning to make numerous inquiries as to the rate of freight from Dhacca to the upper provinces, commencing always with the established formula, "Oh, Meetoowa!" "Ae Chowdree mia!" — rather Italiano, the latter! This is a favourable symptom of our approaching Dhacca.

On the grounding of the boat, in a shallow part of the stream, I became an unwilling auditor of an extremely unpleasant conversation between the mangee and the dandies. Mutual recriminations, and offensively indecent allusions, confined to the mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, and occasionally aunts and grandmothers of each other, seemed to form the basis of their altercation. I do not feel at liberty to repeat their orations, or enter into any detailed statement of the charges against their absent female relations; but I fear that there is some just cause of discontent against the manjee.

About mid-day we encountered a long fleet of boats sailing to Bunarus, from Chittagong, all well laden with sepoys. Their officers accompanied them in a pinnace and budgerows.

The sepoys, on one of the last boats, stood up, and with one accord saluted me in the most handsome manner. True nobility of soul is perfectly undisguisable! I confess that I

try hard to look like a butcher; but I am invariably detected, having no joints for sale. Merit cannot be hidden, even though covered with rags; it may be found in apparently the meanest situations. The thought was beautifully expressed by the friend of Mr. Antony Lumpkin:—

> "What though I am obliged to dance a bear? a"
> "Man may be a gentleman for all that."

Indeed, I myself, had I met them on Tower-hill or Rosemary-lane, should not have scrupled to have addressed two, who were very great men in this country, the one as a footman, and the other as an old clothesman; but then so would any other person.

About four o'clock, we entered another river, nearly at right angles with the one in which we have been so long wandering; found the wind fair, and then up sail, and away with the stream.

The night was cheered throughout by the wild, shrill cry of the sârus, and the not quite so pleasing yells from drunken Bungalees in a neighbouring râkee shop. They are certainly a most musical race.

10th.—Wind favourable. Entered another river to the left, proceeding east by south, the whole of which was split into innumerable chan-

nels by low sandy islands. The manjee still inquiring the distance from Dhacca, some answered three days' sail, others fifteen—some a month, and so on; and the most of them had left it only a very few days.

All of a sudden we changed our course to north of east, and entered a river running strongly against us, called the Jamalpore river, from its passing a city of that name.

We were soon entangled amongst sand-banks, and continued groping about more than five hours: at last, a little before sunset, we found a river leading direct south to Dhacca. If you will cast your eyes on the map, you will be surprised at the innumerable rivers, yet continue ignorant of the greater number, only the larger ones being visible on the map. I suspect that around Dhacca there is much more water than dry land.

During the day we saw scores of large flocks of pelicans and geese. Fastened, at night, on a high chur, on which I found a young crop of indigo. A chorus of Bungalees, sâruses, and dogs amused us during the night.

11th.—Wind contrary, and compelled to go on with the stream. About mid-day passed an invisible indigo factory, on the right bank.

The proprietor was engaged in cutting a canal from the Ganges to his factory. In the bottom of the excavation stood a conical heap of clay, to mark the quantity removed. In England this would have been called an "old woman;" but here, sogun—*i. e.*, witness, which is certainly more appropriate.

From the boat, the canal appeared to be about twenty-five feet deep.

While going down, we were accompanied by an immense shoal of small mullets, none exceeding a foot in length, but generally only half that size. The end of the shoal was only a few feet from the boat, but the head was at least 100 yards distant. As the ropes occasionally touched the water, they rose and rushed forward, like ducks and drakes, fluttering over the river, glistening like silver, and the whole body occasionally leapt a few feet, as if from the sheer joy of existence. With a small net, some thousands might have been secured in a few minutes. I had never seen anything similar; I presume they were proceeding to the sea.

In the pencil or pen-and-ink sketches of even clever artists, we must all have seen clouds that have appeared over-hatched, and

hence muddy and confused in their appearance; but during this day I was for hours witness to the most extraordinary skies I have ever beheld; every cloud was more or less hatched; some of them crossed times innumerable, but were yet perfectly clear and distinct. If such had been exhibited by the inimitable Turner, they would have universally been condemned as unnatural and forced.

Lugâod at the populous village of Mânik Gunje. Sent to a neighbouring indigo factory, and received the latest newspapers, with a polite note from the resident, Mr. Tobin.

Procured in the bazar some exquisite Sylhet oranges, at a very low price; and also some fine chumpa plantains. The latter, although rich and luscious, contained many large black seeds, so as to render them unsafe food to persons with moveable teeth.

While at Bareilly, I permitted a bunch of plantains to ripen thoroughly on the tree. The clump had been much neglected, from not having received a sufficiency of water. When the fruit appeared ripe, I plucked the scanty bunch, and peeling the skin of one of them, found the interior jet black, and composed of seeds resembling those of the pupeeya, or

pupecta, or papaw, only their shells were harder, and they contained a fine white farinaceous matter. I grew hundreds of plants from the seeds, but I did not reside there sufficiently long to observe the fruit. I remember reading a small work, in which it was related with great gravity, that a certain ingenious botanist and assistant-surgeon, *en route* to the eastward for his health, landed on one of the deserted islands in the bay of Bengal, and observed *traces* of the fructification in a wild plantain!

12th.—Persecuted by a shoal of mullets for many hours, as during yesterday. The banks of the river on the right were studded with river turtle in great numbers; the young, generally of a yellow brown hue, and the longer ones dark. I saw none whose longer diameter exceeded two feet. They allowed us to approach to within forty feet, and then dropped into the stream.

Passed, on our left, the populous village of Sabbur, having one permanent building, with an upper room, no doubt the admiration of the neighbouring district. More porpoises, or Gangetic dolphins, were congregated in this spot than in any part of the river I had yet passed.

From thirty to forty rose to gambol and breathe within a minute. While they were fishing below, several Bungalees were also casting their circular nets above, and apparently with great success. The boats in use were not more than ten feet long, and each contained two men: they were composed of a very few planks, rivetted together with iron nails. They use paddles, and not oars, to guide them.

Discovered on my arrival, that the manjee had cheated me of the hire of two dandies, who had been left at Ghazeepore. This puts about thirty rupees into his pocket, which was probably stolen from him before starting by the ghat manjee of Allahabad.

13th.—Dropped down, enveloped in a thick fog, and gradually approached the city of Dhacca. The first object visible in its vicinity was a high, permanent, upper-roomed house, on the west bank of the river, opposite the city, formerly used by the Nabobs of Dhacca as a hunting seat. It is rapidly going to ruin. The city itself runs along the east bank of the Booree Gunga, and is, perhaps, about two miles in length. It is a very beautiful object from a distance of three or four miles, even with a telescope. The houses ap-

pear white, shining, and colonnaded like palaces; and the observer is prepared for splendour and magnificence, to be subsequently disgusted with ruinous decay.

Now, gentle reader, turn not up thy nose at the want of the "lucidus ordo" in my arrangements, but take my notes as they were written, and be contented with the "wilderness of sweets," conveying a faithful account of my feelings and impressions of the once famous City of muslins.

Along the banks are several ruinous buildings, parts of which have fallen into the river, from the sinking of their foundations. All attempts to confine or protect the boundaries of the river here, as in other places, have proved failures. Sloping and hardening the surface seems the best preservative.

Before we landed, a long skiff passed us, filled with brilliant oranges, just arrrived from Sylpet. They are here exceedingly plentiful and cheap—so many as four for a pice, or about 256 for two shillings; but the present is not the cheapest season. I have, while at Bombay, eaten those of Johanna, those of Aurungabad and Agra, on the spots where they are produced; but the wild orange from the forests of

Sylpet is far superior to them all, for richness and exquisite delicacy of flavour.

Large quantities of timber for building are lying on the banks of the river, placed above high water.

Every variety of Indian wood is procurable in the market; and from what I subsequently saw of the city, there may be a sufficiency for the consumption of the next ten years. I am not aware that any is exported to Calcutta; and I am pretty sure that no new houses, and but very few boats, are building at Dhacca or its environs.

I landed and entered the house kindly lent me for my temporary residence by two staff officers, who were both absent on duty,—the one surveying a forest road to Munnipore from Sylhet, and the other catching elephants for the Honourable Company in the neighbourhood of Chittagong.

At the back of my dwelling (which in due time shall be as much, and I hope at least as justly celebrated as is now the residence of Sterne's Eliza, *alias* Mrs. Draper, at Bombay, which is always pointed out to strangers as a most interesting object by the residents in that lovely island), stood a large Gothic front or

gate, with wings, formerly the entrance of a splendid seraee for the reception of travellers.

This building is now in ruins, but by means of its staircase, I contrived to reach the top, which commands a beautiful view of the city and a very small portion of the suburbs. For its size, it contains a great many upper and lower-roomed houses, and every here and there may be seen the ruins of those built by the Mohammedans, some of which have formed subjects for the elegant pencil of Sir C. Doyley, Bart. But after mounting, little or nothing can be seen but the flat roofs of the houses, surrounded by low walls, for the better concealment of their females; a few spires belonging to the temples of Kâlee—two or three surmounted with crosses, to denote those of Christians; a sprinkling of cocoa-nut, beetel, plantain, and other Indian trees. So far as it goes, Dhacca strongly resembles the city of Lucnow, as visible from the roof of the Residency. But even these few beauties must be cautiously approached and admired; for on one occasion, while using my telescope, I heard a sudden whizzing noise, and a piece of plaster was forced from the cornice of the roof on which I was standing. It was simply the

sound of a matchlock ball, fired for the purpose of "feeling the enemy," and meant to convey a friendly personal warning, that the Mussulmans did not entirely approve of minute telescopic reconnoissances from the higher orders.

At the end of the lane, running from the river past my dwelling, there is a large open place, called the Chowk, probably 200 yards square. Within this, leaving a broad road all round, there is a low brick-walled inclosure, with numerous outlets, and nearly in its centre stands a flagstaff. Close to the flagstaff, and raised a few feet from the ground, on a platform of brick and mortar, is placed an immense wrought iron, almost cylindrical, gun, constructed of rings welded together, as in other parts of India. I was told that many great men had in vain attempted to remove this enormous mass of iron from the river side, where it had lain for ages; but at last Mr. Walters had succeeded, by aid of European arts!

Within this inclosure are congregated the majority of the trades of Dhacca, and innumerable petty shopkeepers here dispose of their caps, cotton and chintz dresses, hardware, fish-hooks, beetel nutcrackers, looking-glasses, seetul

puttee, or cool mats, for sleeping on, cane petanahs, for travellers, shoes of an infinite variety of patterns, cocoa-nuts prepared for hookas, and the usual et cæteras.

Seeing some coarse prints, I advanced towards them, and found them to be wood-cuts, representing the Indian heathen deities. These were from a foot broad to eighteen inches, and were sold for two annas, or threepence each. They were most probably manufactured at Calcutta.

Amongst others, an ambitious artist had represented something resembling an European woman, with an extremely woe-worn countenance, and hair *à l'antique.*

Observing that it had also attracted the attention of a very handsome and well-dressed young Mussulman, I accosted him, and said, "That's a pretty painting!"

"Yes!" he replied. "Yes! it is a lover!"

A Madonna of Raffaelle, a Cleopatra of Guido, or a "Noble Lady" of Tiziano, could never have commanded more intense admiration, in the gallery of Florence, from the most despairing or envious student.

"Yes! it is a lover!" Unfortunate young man! it was clear and indubitable that he felt

in his own sad bosom all the poignant sorrow so *scratchingly* depicted in the countenance of the lovelorn and melancholy damsel. The cold, aged, and unfeeling, might sneer and be critical; but nature still held her powerful empire over his affectionate heart!

Amongst other visitors at this daily fair, I found a most fierce and savage-looking Munneepoorean. My landlord had an earthen figure, which he procured in the Munnipoor territory, resembling a chieftain of the country. The dress strongly resembled that of a kilted Scottish highlander; but he wore a sort of helmet, the crowning ornament of which was a tinned circular plate of copper. His breast was ornamented with hair, dyed of different colours; the whole of which was taken from females murdered for that very purpose!—no man thinking himself a warrior, in that chivalrous land, until ornamented in this horrid manner! "Mais à nos moutons!"

The principal part of the commerce of the city is confined to this square, which is perfectly surrounded by shops, and to the roads leading from it towards the southern part of the town, occupied by the military and civilians; a comparatively small space, running

from the river backwards, not more than 350 yards.

Such is the extreme unhealthiness of the cantonments, that fever is now an almost certain consequence of a residence within its boundaries; and hence officers attached to the corps on duty at Dhacca are permitted to live within the city. The houses of the Europeans were principally, if not wholly built, while Dhacca contained the celebrated muslin factory; and although large, commodious, and upper-roomed, can only command a rent of from 60 to 135 rupees per mansion,—the best within the city, at present occupied by the commissioner, only renting for the latter sum. Pretty little gardens are attached to most of them, and such as face the river Booree are certainly most desirable and pleasant residences.

One day, on seeing a crowd of well-dressed Mussulman natives, I immediately approached, and salaaming in my most polite, courtier-like manner, as a man used to high native society, addressed the most picturesque and best-dressed villain, as "Meer Sahib!"—my Lord. They formed a circle round me in a moment, and after returning my salute, we entered immediately into conversation.

My friend was a tall, thin, strapping thief, about thirty-five, wearing his own long black hair, falling most greasily on his shoulders, under a Seik pugree, or turban. His air was, to a remarkable degree, insolent and conceited; but I had melted his *hauteur* by my winning address. He soon informed me that he was a Seik elephant merchant, from Lahore, in search of some fine animals for that market, and was waiting at Dhacca, until he could gain certain information as to the best procurable.

After a little chat, he began to inquire into the success of our army in Affghanistan; and I fear that I more than gratified him and the friends by whom he was surrounded. "Cabool! had we taken Cabool?—Oh, no! that was a joke of the Sahib's!—What, Ghuzni?—Oh, very likely, indeed!" and then he laughed outright. "Ghuzni taken!—Wâh! wâh! the Sahib is certainly a desperate joker! Ghuzni taken!" "Phoo! what of that, a paltry place! We took it without firing a cannon, after a slight skirmish of half an hour or less; and the whole of its property, women, horses, and provisions, were at our disposal!" "Oh, of course! The English were able to work

miracles!" said the Seik; but not one of my hearers believed a syllable of my story.

At last he told me that he would purchase a couple of the finest elephants procurable for Dost Mohammed, whom he would find at Cabool, on his return home! And he may possibly, if he will but wait until he be reinstated, as he may yet be.*

Turning round suddenly, he exclaimed, "Well, sir, if not at Cabool, where is Dost Mohammed to be found?" I pointed to a solitary crow, flying to the north over our heads, and said, "Somewhere in that direction!" and they all laughed most heartily; and so, with mutual salaams and good-will, we parted.

A few days afterwards he visited me in due form, bringing with him for sale some coarse Lahore-made shawl handkerchiefs, and obtained from me a passport, or letter of protection, against all improper characters; and such is my influence over the minds of my fellow-creatures, that I feel fully persuaded that the very members of the Board (of Robbery) would allow him, after its perusal, to escape unscathed.

* This was written immediately after the fall of Cabool!

It was at one time my intention to have paid my respects to the Nabob of Dhacca, but I was assured by a very intelligent person, that he had become miserably poor, and hence not worthy of a visit! He is a very young, uneducated boy, but not worse than other Mohammedan youths of his rank and age; entirely ignorant of English, and so extremely thoughtless and extravagant, that he has mortgaged away his income from 5000 to 200 rupees per mensem—that is to say, from 6000*l.* a year to 240*l.* He inhabits still the house of his ancestors, but lives, as might be expected, in the most wretched manner. He may be generally seen riding on horseback, accompanied by a couple of light horsemen, wearing old-fashioned helmets, and in other respects curiously accoutred.

On every occasion of my meeting him, I always paid him the proper compliment due to his hereditary dignity: "Misâj Mobâruk Navab Sahib buhadoor!" and in consequence, he invariably answered me, with all the English at his disposal, "How you do—very well?" And once or twice, when he overtook me, on my morning walks, we conversed in Hindoostânee, much, no doubt, to our mutual gratification.

How curious (to those who cannot understand it) is our national policy! Education is now the fashionable cry all over India. We are now irresistibly addicted to education. It is the desired panacea for all evils:—Educate! educate! and loosen the natives from the trammels of ignorance and superstition.

"How comes it," said I to my friend P., "that your favourite scheme of education is not extended to the whole of the royal family at Lucnow, as well as to the children of the poor? Why should the influential nobleman, who may hereafter reign, be kept in darkness, while a glare of light is cast on the eyes of the powerless ryot? Why not educate the successors to the crown?"

And the answer was, "*That* would give the business a political aspect; too many turbaned gentlemen would be going to Europe for redress!"

Ah, Sir John, a sad slip that! but you were off your guard, a thing much to be lamented and deprecated in a statesman. "Sir,"—you ought to have said, and may again say, if you think any one will believe you—"Sir, I am delighted to think that the influential classes in India begin to resort, when

they feel themselves oppressed, to England, for redress of their wrongs. I trust that the day will soon come, so earnestly desired by her Majesty's ministers, when the meanest of her subjects in India shall feel that she is warmly interested in their welfare; when the most hearty reliance may be placed on the purity and integrity of our administration; when, so far from serving the tyrant or oppressor by official forms and hindrances, the utmost vengeance of the British law shall be brought to bear on him, and crush him to atoms!—when it shall be universally felt and acknowledged that we rule India, not for her revenues, but for the improvement and happiness of her immense population."

Bravo, Sir John! No doubt, that was what you *meant* to say, but the man flurried you.

In the same manner is our attention directed to agriculture. We should encourage it to the utmost, as the surest mode, not only of enriching the peasant, but of eventually increasing the revenues of the State; we should begin at the beginning, by lowering the assessment on land. This, however, is by far too obvious and simple a mode, and we

therefore begin at the end, by offering bounties on articles which cannot pay for their rearing.

The experiment may be a dangerous one: it may be true that the State cannot afford the risk of experimentalizing; but I feel confident, that if the ryot could but obtain his land, for a permanency, at only one quarter less rent, the prosperity of India might be safely dated from that happy day. Thousands of times has it been said and sung, by every class of Englishmen, that the peasantry is crushed by the heavy interest taken by the muhasuns and shuraffs, varying from forty to sixty per cent. *at the lowest.*

What speculation in the world, except that of slaving, can command success on such terms, for a long series of years? What happens after a famine—such as the late infliction—of two or three successive years? Eternal beggary and destitution. I doubt whether Bundelcund will ever again rise to even a moderate degree of prosperity.

Whenever I perceive that government shew a hearty desire to educate the higher classes, I shall begin to think them interested in the diffusion of the blessings of education amongst

the natives; and when they diminish their land-tax, that they desire the amelioration of the ryot, and the general prosperity of India. These are the true tests;—the rest but leather and prunella.

CHAPTER VII.

DHACCA.

Armenian church at Dhacca—Ceremonies of the Armenian church—Hindoo temple—Sacrifices of animals—Differences and distinctions — Phœnix park—The late Mr. Masters — The celebrated Arabian "Creeper" — His extraordinary beauty—Anecdotes of him—Great age and endurance of Arab horses—A vicious horse—Combat between horse and rider—the military cantonments at Dhacca — Malaria — Destruction of the city — Dhacca muslin—Extreme delicacy of the manufacture—Indigo planters of Dhacca—Culture of coffee and beetel-nut—Oil mills — Feeding on oil-cake — Enormous hams — Dhacca violins—Passion of the Bungalees for music—Shell bracelets—Idol manufacturers—Pagan idols exported from England to India.

I CAME suddenly upon a collection of palkees, and ascertained from the bearers, that they belonged to a congregation then attending divine service—it was on a week day—in the

Armenian church, standing close by. I entered the church, through a veranda about fourteen feet wide. The floor of the interior of the building was divided into three parts: one inclosed by a railing, for the altar; a central portion, into which two folding doors opened; and another railed off, which was exclusively occupied by the women and children, having a gallery over it. The walls were disfigured by wretched prints of the Virgin Mary, &c. The altar stands in a semi-circle, about four feet distant from the wall: it is made, or appears to be made, of wood, and is raised to the height of about ten feet, by steps. These steps sustain twenty-four wax candles, each three feet long, and also a number of small crosses, of some gilt or shining metal. Although it was a bright sunshiny morning, the candles were all burning.

In front of the altar, but a little to the left side, stood the officiating priest, a man of about fifty years of age, wearing spectacles. A piece of his scalp was shaved in a circular form, to the diameter of two inches and a quarter precisely. His under garment was richly ornamented with embroidered silver rosettes, and had a rich border of similar work at the

bottom. His outer vest was a khin khâb (or golden tissue) cloak, having at the bottom of it a border four inches wide, richly embroidered with saints and angels. His collar was also rich and massive, quite stiff with embroidery. He stood at a small reading desk, close to the central part of the church, and before him was placed a large receptacle of holy water.

The service which this priest read, seemed to proceed with wonderful rapidity, and during its progress, he held in his left hand an instrument of thin silver or tin plate, having what appeared to me a picture in its centre, with diverging radii. This was occasionally elevated. While reading, he was joined every now and then by four or five other persons, chiefly youths, wearing long silk cloaks, of a cinnamon colour, with crimson silk ornaments on the shoulders, and having each a crimson cross down the centre of their backs. One of these occasionally repeated "Ameen! Ameen!" in the same nasal tone which distinguished the reading and chanting.

On each flank of the desk stood a boy, who held a rod in his hand, to the end of which was attached a lighted candle in a lan-

tern; while no less than twelve wax candles were burning round the desk.

Several young boys connected with the altar, and dressed in like fashion with those near the priest, and all having crosses at their backs, were walking about during the service, running in at one door and out at another, as if at play.

The assistants to the priests often joined in the reading or chanting, all looking at the same book; and at certain parts, their voices increased in loudness, at which times the bells of the church were pulled with great vigour, for perhaps a couple of minutes, and were perfectly deafening.

When the reading was finished, the priest left the desk, walked towards the altar, and placed the silver instrument, before described, on the altar: then descending the steps, he brought back the book, and placed it on a moveable stool, covered with dark crimson cloth, along with another instrument, in front of the railing which separated the altar part from the centre of the church.

In a few minutes, a few of the male part of the congregation, who were all listlessly lounging near the doors, and leaning against the

walls, (no chairs being allowed,) advanced to the railing, and kissed the silver cross on the book, and likewise the instrument. Little children were then brought or carried up, to follow the example of their papas; and during this ceremony, phials, common beer-bottles, silver cups, &c., were handed to one of the assistants at the desk, who filled them with the holy water, and returned them to their owners.

Not a single symptom of piety was to be discovered amongst the males. Those ministering at the very altar, were to be seen talking and laughing to each other, at the very elbows of the priest; and the boys ran about at their pleasure in all directions, as if at some very stale and ordinary affairs, exactly as at the synagogue of the Jews in London. The young children in the centre of the church were amusing themselves at play, without reproof or remark.

Amongst the matrons only, was any appearance of devotion visible. One of them, most gorgeously apparelled in the Armenian fashion, with a magnificent tiara of jewels on her brow, and wearing a superb shawl, threw herself on the ground, with her head sunk between her

arms, towards the altar, and remained in that position nearly five minutes. The others, being dressed *à l'Anglaise*, with stiff stays, and fashionable bonnets, could not afford to indulge themselves in such a position. They were all *brunettes* of all shades.

When the service was ended, I left the church, and found that the priest had entered the veranda, through a side door, and was occupied in reading a service from a book, over several tombstones, covered with the Armenian characters: and then I remarked, that a small hollow in the floor, less than the size of a tea saucer, at the head of each of the tombstones, was filled with wood ashes and cinders.

A tall, stout man, wearing a white apron, accompanied the priest, as he walked from stone to stone, and looked—it struck me—as if he watched very narrowly that the priest read the service fairly.

The floor of the veranda contains many tombstones, in memory of departed Armenian Christians, who formerly abounded in the city of Dhacca, where they are still an influential and wealthy body.

Within fifteen feet of the church, but quite

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separated, stands a coarse, square tower, having four spiracles at its summit. At the base, within the square of the four walls, a few feet from the ground, a marble tablet has been placed in the wall, with an inscription, both in the Armenian and English languages, signifying that this *superb* and *magnificent steeple* was dedicated to the honour and glory of God, &c., by Mr. Sarkies; which is all very right and proper, but, perhaps, the less said about it the better, as it also serves for a tomb to his wife, who lies buried within its inclosure.

Leaving the place, to walk home, I found a miserably dressed band of natives, playing fashionable quadrilles with drums and fifes, close to the sacred edifice. During their performance, an idiot, whose attendance I had observed at church, amused himself by jumping in the air, without intermission, and evidently in the most ecstatic delight. I was afterwards informed that what I had seen was the Armenian celebration of the festival of Christmas. During the whole ceremony, I could discover nothing, except, perhaps, in the solitary instance of the matron, to produce in my mind the ideas of prayer, praise, or thanksgiving.

Returning homewards, I observed a building within an enclosure, which, from the ornament at the end of its spire, I mistook for a Roman-catholic chapel. I entered the area, and discovered that it was a temple to Kâlee Mâ! The hideous, many-armed, blood-begrimed figure, stared me full in the face; and before the door of the sanctuary was a guillotinish, wooden instrument, having a long lever, for decapitating such kids as are brought for offerings. The head is the priest's fee. So great is their consumption, that I was told by a native, that jet black kids sell at much higher prices than those of any other colour, as they alone can be used at the fifty temples within Dhacca.

On the parapet wall of the house opposite to the door of the temple, I saw the figure of a nautch girl; so turning to the high priest of Kâlu, I asked him if that was also a representation of our black mother? He replied, "No! that is a mere plaything." I asked, where is the difference? My black brother however, could not discover the point of the question, being apparently in the dregs of intoxication at that early hour of the morning; or, as the English groom said, "The liquor was just dying in him like!"

The temple consisted of a ground-floor, having a veranda, supported by Corinthian pillars. The body of the building containing the beastly idol, was a hexagon, over which stood a conical spire of about fifty feet in height, having four spiracles at its hexagonal base. At the top of the spire was fixed an iron ornament, in shape resembling a trident, which I had mistaken for a cross.

During my evening ride, I saw the mansion called "Phœnix Park," formerly the residence of Mr. Masters, once Judge of Dhacca. But that, any man might have been! That was the least of his merits! He bred horses, and amongst others, the celebrated naturalized Arabian "Creeper." This was probably one of the most beautiful of that most splendid race. He was a silver grey, shining as if burnished; his figure and action perfectly faultless; his height something about fourteen hands; his temper equal to his other qualities. His owner, when I first saw him, was a very young Lieutenant of Engineers, and used to ride him occasionally on the Calcutta course of an evening; and so beautiful was the spectacle, that I have repeatedly seen the carriages drawn up, that the occupants might see him more

perfectly, as he cantered or trotted by. From the elegant lunging trot, he used suddenly to burst into a fiery canter, the most graceful conceivable, snorting, plunging, and leaping like an antelope, and yet all the time in reality perfectly tractable, with a simple snaffle.

I remember on one occasion, when we were riding out of the fort together, at a slow walk, we overtook a bheestee's (or water-carrier's) bullock, heavily laden with huge water-bags. His owner said laughingly to me, "Look at him now!"—while, loosening his reins, he allowed Creeper to approach the bullock. The noble horse slowly trotted up, and seized the animal at the top of his tail, then snorting behind it, as if he would have eaten it alive! Stopping for a moment, he returned to the charge of the frightened beast; furiously snorting and pawing, he butted him with his head, and seemingly enjoyed the fright he produced as much as any mischievous schoolboy would have done; and all this in sheer play, without the slightest vice, for he stopped the moment the reins were tightened. I can hardly believe that a more perfect horse of his size was ever foaled.

Many years afterwards, being anxious to ascertain if Creeper were yet alive, I learned from my friend, Major C. H. Campbell, then at Futteh Gurh, that he had contracted glanders, and was obliged to be shot.

I was told by Mr. Glass, that many horses of Mr. Masters' breeding were still alive, and working hard; and that he had one in his own possession, above twenty-five years of age, and still highly serviceable. An Arab is certainly one of the most enduring of his genus. The age they attain in the stables of rich natives, is beyond European belief. The exercise they get, is most generally a slow walk or a brisk canter of a few score yards, at the head of a procession, a few times a year, with daily walks, unmounted. Their food does not consist in dry hay and hard oats, but in boiled grain or vetches, and green grass, carefully picked and cleaned,—and thus they escape constipation, so generally fatal to aged horses.

An Arab, whose appearance attracted my attention, in the stalls of the late King of Oude, was so exceedingly old, that the head groom told me that nobody could guess his age, as he had been an old horse before any of

them were born. And this I fully credited, for I had long before heard that the celebrated Moontuzzim Ood'dowla Mehundee Ulee Khân buhadoor, better known as the Hukeem Mehúndee, prime minister of the King of Oude, possessed an old Arab horse, which had been sent him by the Imaum of Mecca, with its original pedigree, which proved its age to be above forty-six years! I knew an officer at Bombay who had himself worked an Arab for twenty-five years, and he was, when I saw him, perfectly fresh after a ride of twenty-six miles, over the gravelly soil of Ahmednuggur.

In Lucknow, while visiting the king's stables, I was witness to a most melancholy spectacle to the lover of the thorough-bred racer. A beautiful bay English blood-horse, which I heard had been presented by George IV. to a former King of Oude, was blinded with clothes, and fastened on each side of his head-stall with strong chains; for such was his vice, that he was not to be approached without due precaution. While thus secured, he was not only a wind-sucker, but a weaver, and his whole body incessantly moved from one side to another, without rest by night or day. After

looking at him for a few seconds, I called out, in pure groomy language, "Come up!" Instantly the weaving ceased, the horse trembled violently, and then suddenly lashed out with his hind legs, as if he wished to kick me to atoms. I heard that, admiring his beautiful figure, it had been determined to educate him in the native style, but that he became intolerably vicious in consequence; and I do not wonder at it; for few horses possess tempers sufficiently good to endure such severe treatment as their riding-school requires. Native horses frequently become vicious in training; but then on the other hand, for show or parade, there is no horse-breaker in the world superior, if equal, to the cool old Hindostanee, in producing an exquisitely tender mouth with native bits.

The horse was dirty in the extreme; and the condition of his stall may be imagined, when after a few struggles, which removed the upper layer of bedding, I saw that the substratum was a rich, black, moist, stinking, decomposing mass of dung.

On the accession of the late king, whose honourable economy was well known, this poor

creature was turned loose into a court-yard, with a hungry royal Bengal tiger. The battle was of considerable duration; but the event proved the power and spirit of the horse, who kicked the tiger to death, after his own bowels had been torn out and trailed on the ground. Thus the keep of two animals was saved to the Court of Oude, and the King's majesty rejoiced thereat.

Continuing my course beyond Phœnix Park and its elegant gateway, I reached the public drive of the station, which, when in good order, must have been a very lovely spot. It is at present surrounded by the ruins of a paling, secured at small distances by pillars of masonry, the total cost of which, it is said, exceeded a lac of rupees! Within the enclosure, there is an excellent race-course; part of its wooden railings and stand still remain—wood being plentiful, and white ants scarce.

To the north-west of the stand, the gentleman (a civil servant in the palmy days of the muslin factory) who enclosed the ground, also erected an artificial hill, and planted it with ornamental trees, used there to furnish their morning's coffee to all the visitors of the race-course. The whole inclosure was beautifully

decorated with various descriptions of rare trees, casuarinas, mimosas from Nipaul, &c.

At a short distance stands his dwelling-house, uninhabitable and deserted, from the effects of malaria.

The adjoining military cantonments are very green and beautiful; but out of the officers of the regiment, only one or two dwell within them: the rest, either from having suffered from the fever, or being afraid of its ravages, reside in the city, as I have formerly mentioned. Within them, however, are several very handsome upper and lower-roomed spacious houses, for which no tenants can be found. A large marsh diffuses deadly malaria, close to the very edge, if not actually within the lines; and there are several tanks, which no doubt contribute their portions of the poison. During the rains, there is a quantity of stagnant water to the north of the cantonments, which dries up slowly during the cold weather.

But the chief cause of the destruction of the city of Dhacca is to be traced to the loss of the muslin trade, which has almost entirely disappeared. It is true that by giving a commission, an extremely delicate article may be still procured, at the rate of 150 rupees,

or 15*l.* for ten yards; but at that rate, as may be readily imagined, little can be sold, as the demand must be necessarily very small.

The working of shawl scarfs with flossed silk is carried to great perfection, and many are dispatched by bangy to Calcutta. Beautiful earrings and other ornaments, made of the purest silver, and of an infinite variety of patterns, can be supplied at a very short notice, and at reasonable prices.

The suburbs of Dhacca were formerly inhabited by thousands of families of muslin weavers, who, from the extreme delicacy of their manufacture, were obliged to work in pits, sheltered from the heat of the sun and changes of the weather; and even after that precaution, only while the dew lay on the ground, as the increasing heat destroyed the extremely delicate thread. When the manufacture ceased, these pits were wholly deserted, and they are now filled with rain after every shower, which speedily becomes putrid, and favours the production of the rankest vegetation.

The majority of the weavers have long since deserted Dhacca, to seek employment in agriculture. The vacant ground has been in vain offered at the lowest rates to capitalists, who

assert that the expense of bringing it into cultivation is so great, that they cannot secure any chance of profit. The consequence is, that within half a mile of the city, there exists one of the most pestilential jungles in India; nay, the skirts of the city itself are beginning to bear the same appearance, from the scantiness of its rapidly diminishing population.

The city contains a few rich and respectable indigo planters, who in addition to that manufacture, speculate in government lands, which they rent out to zemindars and ryots.

A considerable time has elapsed since they introduced the coffee plant, but they meet with innumerable difficulties and unforeseen obstacles in its culture, finding it almost impossible, by any arts of persuasion, to induce the natives to pay it the requisite attention in weeding, so as to make it a paying crop. There is no fault in the soil or climate, for the plant bears very abundantly, and the berry is of fair quality.

The beetel-nut trees produce very heavy crops, and they form one of the staples of the country. Many of the areas attached to native houses near the city may be seen almost choked with them. Its slender elegance commands admiration.

Long before I had any intention of visiting Dhacca, I had heard with great interest of the erection of English steam oil-mills in the city; but on my arrival, I was much mortified to learn that they had proved a perfect failure. They were built at the expense of 650,000 rupees, and were sold for 18,000 a few weeks previous to my arrival. An application was actually made to the magistrate from the proprietor, who agreed to give him the materials of the building, to be broken up for the use of the public roads, if he would remove them at the expense of government! The cause of the failure was said to have originated in the aversion of the natives to the oil expressed by these means: they alleged that it contained too much of the bitter principle to be used in their cookery.

I could gain no information as to whether any attempt had been made to draw oil from the til, which is both abundant and cheap through the whole district. That oil is flavourless, and might, I should think, have been sent to Europe with the best chance of success, as fully equal to the finest Italian olive oil. The cake forms an admirable food for fattening hogs.

Many years ago, I had a small piggery for

fattening a few swine of the Chinese breed, to convert into hams and bacon; and reading a recommendation of linseed, I starved the animals until they were gradually seduced into a vast consumption of that article, which is procurable at a low price. They fattened to a most enormous size; one old sow, in particular, produced hams so heavy, that strong as I was, it was with very great difficulty I could raise one from the ground to place it on a kitchen dresser. I never weighed them, but I can say with truth, that I have never seen a ham in India that weighed a third of those. But the flavour, when boiled! They melted in the mouth like butter, and in flavour they exceeded as much as in weight; but it was the flavour of linseed oil!—in fact, an incarnation of linseed;—and I am persuaded that if the public buildings had required an expenditure of that article, I could not have procured finer in any market in India than from the drippings of the boiled hams. I believe that a year's feeding at least, on some other farinaceous food, would have been required to have destroyed the flavour they acquired on linseed cake. I do not quite understand how it can be given in cake or jelly to fattening

animals in Europe. Linseed beef can hardly be more pleasant than linseed pork.

The mills were subsequently applied to the grinding of wheat into flour; a speculation which would find its parallel in converting rice into flour for the use of the inhabitants of the Orkneys; with this small additional disadvantage, that the natives consume nothing but rice at Dhacca, so that a full century would have elapsed before they could have been induced to eat wheaten flour, whereas the Orkney people may have already heard of rice, as several of the natives have travelled in foreign lands. Thus, owing no doubt to some great and glaring mismanagement, a large sum has been lost to a spirited projector, and a temporary obstacle raised to the introduction of European machinery, science, and capital; and this, in India, is much to be deplored.

Dhacca has now but three manufactures worthy of the name, but they are very curious ones. The most important is that of violins. Great numbers are made and sold at the low rate of two rupees, or four shillings sterling! Four shillings for a violin and bow, made of excellently seasoned wood! Few manjees leave the city without purchasing some, either on

speculation, or for their own private enjoyment during their tedious voyages. The sounds of the violin may be heard at all hours of the day and night; and I was told that a milkman tyro, in the compound adjoining my informant's house, so completely disturbed his rest at night, that he was at last compelled to tell him that a complaint should be made against him to the magistrate, to abate the nuisance. This alone suspended the labours of this Bungalee Orpheus.

The Bungalees are in fact a highly musical people, as any one may discover by frequenting the streets of Dhacca during the night, when, if you peep into a shop where an industrious mechanic is following his trade, you will most probably find another recreating himself, after his daily labour, either with a violin or a sarungee, and occasionally singing to his own music, but never English airs. Groups may be also seen, walking along, and singing to the utmost pitch of their voices. One night in particular, I lingered for a considerable period at the outer door of a carpenter, listening with real pleasure to a sweetly plaintive song, accompanied by the violin, from an amateur within.

We enjoyed the peculiar advantage of re-

siding in the immediate vicinity of a concert room, frequented by eminent cognoscenti, whose vocal and instrumental music generally commenced with Philomel's song, to last until the shama's notes. What more could they have done in Italy? We are so prejudiced! But dispassionately, are not Nâré, Nâré, Nâré, sounds as pleasant and musical as "Tol de riddle dol, tum ti dido?" Let the Italians decide.

The second manufacture consists in the formation of bracelets of different diameters, both for children and women; being sections of a sea-shell called "sunk"—evidently because they are found under water! Necklaces, called kântas, are also formed of the thick part of the same shell, enough to furnish almost the whole of the Bengal army. The former are cut by a half-moon shaped saw, about three feet long, worked by the right hand, having a moveable edge, which is replaced when destroyed by long use. The shells are a species of univalve, strongly resembling, if not, the "murex tulipa," procured from Calcutta, where they are purchased at the cheap rate of two and a half annas per hundred. They are from four to seven inches long, vary in diame-

ter from two inches to two inches and a half thick, are very heavy, and in whiteness far exceed ivory. More than three hundred mechanics are constantly employed in this curious manufacture. The tribe occupy a whole street of the most picturesque and ancient houses in Dhacca, running behind the Kotwâlee, towards the area formerly the site of the Honourable Company's Residency. The single houses in this street vary from ten to fifteen feet in breadth, and are from two to three stories. The narrow ones appear as if built of cards, and all are curiously decorated with Ionic, Doric, and Corinthian pilasters, supporting nothing, and such like heathenish devices.

The third manufacture, in a mercantile point of view, is hardly worthy of record; it is merely that of idols!

This I ascertained by accident; for one morning, observing a crowd round the door of a stone-cutter, I walked up, and found them busy in removing a lingam, which had been sold for the enormous sum of one hundred and twenty-five rupees! It was made of a certain black stone, not quite three feet long, and very nicely polished.

After receiving consecration from some

priestly Bramin, it was intended to be set up for public worship, as a rival to the living God. So accustomed are Englishmen to see such objects of worship, that they hardly ever elicit a remark.

But to be fair and just, I must add, that soon after the commencement of the free trade, I myself beheld the sides of the walls inclosing Tank Square, covered with Hindoo images, *manufactured in England*, and ready for pagan worship after a similar consecration! So much for the zeal and religion of the manufacturing interests in Staffordshire or the Potteries! I suspect that none of them were ever sold;—but what a spirit of Christian charity to the spiritual wants of our black brethren did not this cargo display!

CHAPTER VIII.

DHACCA.

Fool's Bridge—New road—Cane trees—Greek chapel—Greek burial ground—Horticultural garden—Its wretched condition—A mere job—Failure of all such establishments in India—The climate and general aspect of Dhacca—Anecdotes—A sorceress— Bewitching a horse—Universal belief in magic—Various kinds of moral magic—Native police—An adventure—Hatred of the natives to the English—Native women—Singular coiffure—Turtle—Elephantiasis—Mango trees—A marriage feast—Superb dress of the boy-bridegroom—The Vakeel, or native barrister—A native freethinker—Baptist missionaries at Dhacca.

In one of my morning walks, I crossed the small river which runs through the outskirts of the city, by a very neat suspension bridge, erected by public subscription in 1830, while Mr. Walter was magistrate of the station. It has an inscription to that effect, both in Persian

and English; but curious enough, none, that I remember, in Bungalee, which is the language of the country. Such bridges are much wanted in India, and would greatly contribute to the comfort of the native population. So far as I could ascertain, the bridge had never been repaired since its erection, and all that it now requires, is a couple of coatings of good paint, to preserve it from the action of the elements.

Continuing my walk, I reached the beautiful road lately made under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Shepherd, which runs along the banks of the river, in the direction of the Pâghul pool, or Fool's bridge; so called, I presume, because the stream over which it was erected, sought a different course, and left it standing on the plain. This road is by far the most beautiful in the environs of the city; but the cane-haki and dense jungle, to its eastward, is much to be regretted. It is skirted by a few miserable, but picturesque villages, and solitary huts.

The prospect of the river, both up and down, is very pleasant. The cane I found here a very beautiful plant, strongly resembling

a dwarf date-tree, but the leaves are of a richer and more lively green.

I paid a morning visit to the Greek chapel, which contains but little worthy of note. It has, however, a spire surmounted by a cross. The priest is an European Greek, a remarkably handsome papa, and has his dwelling in a small lower-roomed house in the area of the church. My informant, the clerk, told me, that there were now but few European Greeks in the city, as they did not live long, but a good many, born of Greek fathers and native mothers. Any one could point out the cause of the speedy death of the priests, as their house stands in a close confined alley, surmounted by fœtid drains, which are never cleared! A situation more unhealthy can be hardly found in the city, abounding, as it does, in all the causes of disease and death.

The church is a room about thirty feet long by twenty feet wide. It has no railed-in altar, or elevated space, but the floor is all on one level. Two large wax candles stood on each side of the centre of the eastern end of the room.

Over the centre was fixed a painting of the

Virgin Mary, gazing at an infant Jesus, apparently at least thirteen years of age, lying perfectly naked on a bed! to the right, but a little in the rear, stood Joseph. Nothing could be more disgusting than such an odious daub, in such a sacred place! On the left hand of this altar-piece was a *full length* portrait of the Virgin Mary, between seven and eight feet high, and looking five-and-thirty years of age. On the right, as my cicerone stated, was the picture of Jesus Christ himself; and round the walls of the room, each with a suitable Greek inscription or legend, were paintings of the angel Gabriel, the apostles, and divers Greek saints, all surrounded by flying angels in each of their corners, in the style of the twelfth century. They were painted on wood or copper, neatly executed in an oil-miniature style, with a fine varnish, and had been procured from Greece about five years ago. I dare say similar articles are to be seen in every Greek chapel through the whole of the Levant.

In addition to these, was a good old print of a Last Supper, after a Raffaelle, which I should have rather seen in my own portfolio.

On the floor, below the pictures, there is

one plain dark stone with an English and Greek inscription, to the memory of a Greek gentleman.

The Greeks possess a cemetery close to the race-course, where numbers lie buried. The style of the tombs is anything rather than ornamental or beautiful; all being, besides, in a very dirty and disgraceful state; and although a durwan, or porter, is allowed for their better preservation, the inclosure was filled by cows, calves, and goats.

While accidentally passing by, on an elephant, with Mr. Skinner, the collector, I was told that Dhacca boasted of its horticultural society and garden; and he pointed it out in an adjacent field, which appeared a most unweeded and slovenly spot. The construction of the machine for raising the water required for irrigation, absorbed the amount of the subscription. It contained a few Mauritius sugar-canes, and some plants, which appeared to be cotton-bushes; but the "garden" would undoubtedly have been passed without attracting attention, if it had not been pointed out. But it has already answered the real purpose for which it was, no doubt, brought into existence—viz., that of placing the illustrious

names of its spirited and patriotic projectors in the columns of the Transactions of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Calcutta, for publication in the newspapers. In fact, the whole amount of knowledge on those subjects, belonging to the branch society, is insufficient for the pruning of a peach-tree, the grafting of a vine, or the raising of a seedling sweet-brier. I have never yet resided in a station where I did not find some similar attempts, which all end in the same manner. Men in office have no time, and men in the army have no money, to expend on such pursuits, and both are constantly liable to sudden removals to distant stations.

I shall now relate several amusing circumstances which occurred to me during my residence, with remarks on the climate and general aspect of the country.

One of my chupprassees one morning rushed into the room where I was seated, to report that my saees, or groom on "her Highness," had detected an old Mussulmanee, in the very act of throwing down milk at the feet of my mare! Considering the great value of the animal, and the horrible nature of the witchcraft, he had brought the old woman for

punishment. She confessed her guilt! She declared herself a worshipper or believer in Ghâzee Mian, who lies buried at Mecca—although his presence pervades the world—and in his honour she had done the deed! My chief valet, Huzooree, expressed his opinion that the incantation used was one of a most dreadful and deadly nature, and no up-country man could predict its consequences; for the Bungalees were undoubtedly most frightful sorcerers!

After deep cogitation, I told them that the old lady should be compelled to dissolve the magic charm, by throwing down some more milk, which I knew would prove quite effectual! But at the same time, I warned the saees to be very guarded in forbidding the approach of any stranger near the mare's grain, or grass, as a dose of croton might derange her Highness's bowels more than a maund of milk.

The Nipaulese and Bhoteas believe that all the dwellers in the plains of Hindoostan practise witchcraft, and impute such diseases as they may contract in their travels to their incantations; and, as you have heard, those in the upper provinces accuse the Bungalees of similar practices. All natives, both Moham-

medans and Hindoos, have a firm belief in magic, and dread its evil influence on themselves, children, cattle, and harvests, as may be seen by their amulets, and pots stuck in their fields, marked with white spots, to defend them from an evil eye. For my own part, I am "free to confess" that there is a great deal of magic in circulation. First, there is the magic of power and place, which converts an ignorant, timid man, into an object of adoration; secondly, the magic of wealth, which elevates any, however hideous a scoundrel, to the summit of respectability and honour, be he robber or murderer, liar or cheat; thirdly, there is the magic of cant, that takes such a deep interest in the moral welfare of China and other distant places, while it notices not the gin palaces and starving children at the factories and coal-pits in England; and, then there is the magic lantern, and the magic strop, in which bearded men place sincere reliance!

On the evening of the celebration of the Suruswuttee pooja, or worship of the idol patroness of writing and accounts, the streets being extremely crowded with idols borne on the shoulders of men, accompanied by swarms

of pious drunken devotees, carrying torches, firing blue lights, beating drums, and singing loudly, I found, when too late to retreat, that her Highness disdained to encourage such rioting by her countenance, and in consequence, whenever they approached, she wheeled violently and suddenly round, to the eminent personal risk of her illustrious master, and to the great danger of the passengers. I determined to shun the "flaunting town," and proceed to my evening drive, by the river side walk, to the race-course. For this purpose, I threaded my way through divers pleasantly perfumed alleys until I reached the walk. I had scarcely taken a dozen of steps over it, before I was civilly accosted by two men, so far as I can remember, without badges, who informed me that I could not ride on that road. I stopped, and having heard their instructions, told them that I was forced to take that route, as my neck was in danger from the mare's reluctance to encounter Suruswuttee; but if one of them would return with me, and drive off the paynims, I should not proceed a single step further.

They declined, as not being at liberty to leave their post. I therefore proceeded at a

slow walk, a few paces in advance, when a burkandaz, or thrower of lightning, armed with a sword, rushed from the side of the walk towards the mare's head, and seized the reins. In vain did I tell him to release her, and request him to hear what I had to say. Every attempt at explanation was stopped by his most insolent interruption. At last, he said that there was a fine of eight annas to be levied on every one detected riding there, and that he would drag me to the kutwâlee, or police office, to pay it. And this with the most insolent gestures and language. I mentioned my rank and name, and that I would pay the fine; nay, that if he would but loosen his hold, I should follow him to the kutwâlee. But all in vain. A mob gathered round us, and many of them incited him by their advice and encouragement still further to insult and annoy me. I turned round, and silenced one of these gentlemen in an instant.

My friend the Commissariat Baloo, who was taking his evening walk, having heard that an European had been arrested, came hastily towards us, and on seeing me, cried "Are you insane? What can you be thinking about?

You cannot hope to escape punishment: be advised; apologize and release him!"

The man with the reins had dispatched another policeman to the office for instructions, who returned after I had been for ten minutes a prisoner, and whispered something in the ears of my captor, who dropped his hold, and said "Chulo!"—be off! I had all along cautioned him against using any disrespectful language, without success. But he valiantly returned word for word, for which I told him that I should diminish his insolence before to-morrow morning.

I refused to be released, and in turn insisted on being carried to the kutwâlee; and so the fellow walked before me, leading the mare through the alleys and street, until we arrived there. I called for the kutwâl, and desired him to give me some pens, ink, and paper, to write to the magistrate, which I did, and immediately afterwards, Mr. Skinner arrived, and after hearing my account, desired that the witnesses of the assault should be present at the office to-morrow morning, for the investigation of my complaint. It happened that the fellow had no authority for the seizure, his duty being merely to report my name, or

if that could not be obtained, to follow me to my residence for that purpose.

The next day, after due inquiry, the man was deprived of his badge of power, and dismissed by *diggory* of the Court.

After the first blush, I was exceedingly cool and amused. It was quite a treat to me to see how the indwelling hatred of the English displayed itself by the man and the mob, and how delighted and gratified they all were at the disgrace they conceived me to have suffered: nothing could exceed his ferocious insolence and demeanour.

The idols were each flanked by wax candles, and further illuminated by candles in talc shades. The glare of the blue lights threw a fine mellow light over all, and the tops of the houses facing the street were crowded with native women, of the most infamous order, all dressed in their richest dresses, in honour of the idols.

I frequently met some richly clothed Bungalees, who dressed their hair in a most curious manner. It was curled until quite stiff, and cut into the shape of a thick turban, from which it could not be distinguished at a small

distance: in texture they strongly resemble old-fashioned yew hedges.

On several occasions I saw women carrying large turtles on their heads through the streets, for sale. They might have weighed from twenty to thirty pounds each, and were valued at five pice, or about twopence sterling. The caste of fishermen have no scruples in eating them; but none other than the lowest of the people are at liberty to use such impure food. I have no doubt but the genuine sea turtle is occasionally caught here, as at Bombay, after a long continued and severe gale. The islands in the river must afford them excellent shelter at such times.

I have been much struck with the numerous cases of elephantiasis, while traversing the city. The majority of the poor sufferers are women; but I saw no one attacked with it under thirty years, and many must have at least reached their sixtieth year, being withered and bent double from old age. I calculated that at least ten per cent., above the age of fifty, must be subject to the disease, which however does not appear to shorten life.

The mango-trees blossomed here about the

5th of January. I was surprised to hear that few good fruit are to be procured, owing to their being infested with worms. Expecting to see the trees of an enormous size, from what I supposed the advantages of the soil and climate, I found that their average height did not exceed forty-five, and but few reached fifty feet. All looked sickly and diseased, and many were covered with various kinds of parasitical plants. In the upper parts of India some noble mango-trees may be seen, rivalling the English oak in size and grandeur of form.

Here are several varieties of fern: the elegant polopodium; the ribbon and common fern, growing on garden walls, in damp, dark cellars, and in deep brick-built wells. I brought those varieties with me, to be exhibited at the ordinary meetings of the Asiatic Society. These demonstrate an extraordinary dampness of climate; and few botanists would expect this genus to be found almost equally luxuriant at Simla, and at Dhacca, the latter of which is probably under the height of a hundred feet above the sea. The common fern may also be found in company

with the caper plant, in the streets of Calcutta. but I suspect that is quite unknown to the majority of its residents.

During my residence, I received a polite note of invitation, soliciting the honour of my company, at the house of Nundloll Dutt, Vakeel, in celebration of his son's marriage, which I immediately accepted in due form.

The party assembled at that gentleman's mansion before nine o'clock, and broke up after eleven. The whole suite of rooms were very neatly carpeted, and the walls ornamented with prints taken from annuals, and *magazins de modes.* At one end of the principal room a square piano had been provided, and near it a circular table covered with fashionable albums and expensive illustrated works. The whole of the interior was handsomely lighted up in the European manner.

The area in front of the house was tastily illuminated, and a native band performed the "Caliph of Bagdad," and divers opera airs, in a most excruciating manner, under a temporary orchestra. When the party had assembled, we were gratified by a display of fireworks,

consisting of anârs, or flower-pots, sky-rockets, &c. After this, a magic castle of transparent talc was besieged, and cast out terrific fire-balls &c. in rapid succession.

When these were finished, the company, headed by Mrs. Evelyn Gordon, the commissioner's lady, adjourned to the supper table, which they found liberally supplied with an European supper, consisting of cakes, sweetmeats, fruits, claret, and sherry.

The bridegroom was a stout bashful boy of fifteen, most gorgeously apparelled in a gold tissue dress, with a superb turban, having a valuable serpesh, or head ornament, composed of precious stones. Over his splendid habit he wore a fine cashmere shawl, to keep him cool and comfortable.

As I arrived a little before the company, I had the honour of being present when the bridegroom's two officiating gentlemen of the chamber were employing their skill in laying his shawl on his shoulders in a graceful manner. When this had been finished to their satisfaction, the father entered, and after exchange of compliments with me, destroyed the whole of their labour, by changing the mode of in-

vestiture. The ladies of the party did not gain admittance, as they expected, to the bride, who was an infant.

The father was a tall and very handsome Hindoo, perhaps thirty-five years of age, habited in a plain fine muslin dress, covered with a splendid shawl.

We entered into conversation, and so far as I was capable of judging, I found the father a highly intelligent and well-informed man; and Mr. Gordon, the commissioner, subsequently stated that he was a very talented man, and exceedingly well versed in the regulations of the courts of law.

A vakeel is in fact a barrister at law, and amongst the natives it is deemed a highly respectable profession. The income of such as have obtained celebrity as pleaders, may range from two to five thousand rupees a month. It is probable that in a few years more, highly educated Englishmen will not disdain to act in these Mofussil courts, as some already do in those of Calcutta, with the highest success.

Before I left the party, I thanked the vakeel for his handsome entertainment, and assured him that we were all delighted with his hospi-

tality and attention. At this he appeared much gratified.

One morning, while walking about the skirts of the city, a stout built native, about fifty years of age, politely salaaming, inquired if I had any objection to enter into conversation with him? I assured him that I should be much pleased. He told me that he had served in the ranks of the Company's army as a sepâhee for fifteen years, had taken his discharge, and was now established as a servant of the Begum of the Nawab of Dhacca.

After a little hesitation, and expression of a hope that I would pardon his curiosity, he said that he desired exceedingly to know my opinions on certain religious topics. I encouraged him to proceed; but the first question astounded me. "Sir, what do you believe concerning the transmigration of souls? Do you believe that the bodies of men perish, and that for sins committed in this life, their souls are forced to dwell in the bodies of tigers, bullocks, cows, and so forth? We are taught to believe this, but I am quite incredulous. If I slay a man in this life, shall he, in a future state, be therefore enabled to slay me?"

We stood a full half hour in the middle of

the highway, discussing these and similar matters; and I gave him such explanations and information as occurred to me at the time, answering his arguments one after another. He admitted that idol worship was both disgusting and useless, for after all, only one supreme God could exist; that as for Kalee, so much worshipped at Dhacca, she was but mere clay, such as that we stood on.

I mentioned my residence, and told him to call, and that I should be glad to see him; but I chiefly and strongly advised him to visit the Baptist Missionaries, some of whom have been preaching the gospel for upwards of twenty-five years in the city.

I have several times met their catechists and expounders, distributing tracts, and preaching in the streets. They were very young men, of a very pleasing appearance, who did not appear to meet either much attention or opposition from their hearers.

CHAPTER IX.

DHACCA.

A great traveller—Chinese in India—The Assam Tea Company—Its prospects—Mr. Wise—Use of the tea plant in Assam—Singular mode of its preparation—Supineness of England—Indian Albinos—Training of elephants—A pet elephant—Elephants subject to tubercular consumption—The caper bush—Cause and effect—Climate of Dhacca—The secret discovered—Re-embarkation—The Fool's bridge—Grain market—Between two stools—Cross-questioning—Hatred of Europeans—Official negligence—A mock beef-steak—The philosophy of duck-shooting—Native agriculture—Richness of the soil—Indigo plant—How to make a wooden anchor—Immense width of the river—A storm—Perils of river navigation—An eagle shot.

RETURNING home one moonlight night, after a very long walk, I passed a party of three or four men, dressed with jackets and caps, in a sort of half European style. One of them, seeing me advance, stretched out his hand, and ad-

dressed me. "You Inglis?" I shook hands, and answered—"Yes, Inglis." He then began speaking an impure Hindoostanee, and informed me that these gentlemen were his friends; on which we all exchanged salaams in the most polite fashion. He added, that he was a merchant from Moulmein; that he had brought to Dhacca a cargo of black pepper and rubies; that he had sold all the former, and the most valuable of the latter; and complained that trade was getting very slack. After a little, he stated that he was not a native of these parts, but a foreigner, like myself, and a subject of Fez, in Africa, opposite to Gibraltar, and close to Espagnols!—Here was a traveller! That he and I, in fact, were brothers—another squeeze of the hand—from the same foreign land, for he could always reach England in a ship in ten days.

"This man," said he—turning to a squat little fellow—"is from Ispahan—this one, from Shiraz—and this, from Baghdad. How very odd it is that we should all meet here in Bengal."

The Ispahanee then claimed precedence. "No!" said the Shirazee—"mine is the best of all our countries. 'Joy be to Shiraz, and its

charming borders! — may Heaven preserve them from decay!"

After chattering together for a few minutes more, we parted, after the Fez-zite had promised to bring them all to pay me a morning visit, and to shew me his rubies.

They accordingly came, in the course of a few days. The rubies were exceedingly small, resembling pale, claret-coloured, transparent sections of small peas; none of them weighed a carat, or were globular, but all had a lustrous vitrified appearance. He also shewed me a very inferior topaz, about the size of a pea. He inquired into the amount of my information on jewels; on which I handed him Mawe's work on Mineralogy, in which he immediately recognised and correctly named the sapphire, emerald, ruby, cat's-eye, and others.

He had left Fez in his youth, and resided about seventeen years in India. When I asked him if he would soon return, he answered "Yes! Let us take a ship, load it with valuables, and depart home. You and I shall go home together." It was his intention to visit Calcutta, with articles for its market, manufactured at Dhacca. He seemed a sen-

sible, clear-headed man. Whenever in conversation he was at all at a loss for a word, he explained his meaning in Persian to the Ispahanee, who translated it to me in Hindoostanee, which he spoke very correctly. He informed me that he was a Mohammedan, but I strongly suspect that he was a Jew, and ashamed to acknowledge it.

At another time, while riding on horseback through the streets, I passed an elderly Chinese, then another, and so on until nearly a dozen had passed. I addressed them in their native tongue, much to their astonishment; on which they stopped, and each of them laughed wildly with joy, and roared out, "Cheen! Cheen! Cheen!" till the whole place re-echoed "Cheen!" They were tea-manufacturers, proceeding to Assam, for the purpose of instructing the natives of the country in the art of preparing tea, for the benefit of the Assam Tea Company.

I wish this company every success most heartily, and I feel persuaded, and venture to predict, that fifty years hence, it will be proved that its labours have not only lowered the prices, but have also improved the qualities of the teas drank in Europe; and most probably

some new and delicious preparations of the leaf will be discovered, and a vast outlet created for English produce, in countries which do not now consume our manufactures to the amount of 1000*l.* a year.

In conversation with Mr. Wise, I ascertained a very curious fact. It seems that the natives of Tepperah, which is a civil station within fifty or sixty miles of Chittagong and Dhacca, have from time immemorial been in the habit of drinking an infusion of the green undried leaves of the tea plant, which grows there abundantly in a wild state, prepared in a curious manner, which seems to be at all events worth a trial. After plucking and separating the leaves from the small branches, they are crammed into the hollow of a bamboo, the end of which is stopped up. They are allowed to remain there for eight or ten days, and then infused in boiling water.

And yet the existence of the tea plant is but a recent discovery! Any other nation—the French, for instance—would have established a tea-manufactory at Tipperah immediately after their first settlement; and the Yankees would have "progressed" railroads and steam-boats for its more speedy success. No nation in the

world have ever shewn such extreme listlessness and inattention to the produce of this country as our own. India at this moment is a mine of wealth in unexplored capabilities. No sooner had steam-boats appeared, than coal has been discovered in every direction! Let the country supply itself with iron, and I will warrant the fulfilment of the offers that were made to supply Government, about twenty-three years ago, in company with a certain Ensign William Nairn Forbes, with every article that the most extensive arsenal could require. We were then told by the courteous and intelligent Lord Hastings, that he himself would strongly recommend the adoption of our plans to the council; and in a subsequent interview, he informed us that he regretted deeply that it was objected to, on the grounds "that the manufacture of iron in Bengal would militate against the commercial interests of Great Britain:"—that is, against the profits of those Indian stock-holders, possessing votes, who followed the trade of ironmongers!

In my excursions, I saw two perfect Albinos in the city. The elder seemed a man about twenty-five years old, with red hair and pink

eyes; and the other a boy of six or seven, playing amongst other native children in the lane of the necklace-maker, behind the kutwâlee. I have repeatedly met them in other parts of India, where they are perfectly well known. I never heard that they were either at premium or discount; and they intermarry as their parents may please, like other natives.

I also walked to the elephant sheds. These animals are originally caught in keddahs, and by koonkees, at Chittagong, and its neighbourhood, and brought here to be tamed and trained. Their number when I visited them was one hundred and twenty-five, chiefly small ones, which will cost a great deal before they are fit for the public service, the larger having been dispatched on duty to different stations. Many of the females calve after having been months at Dhacca. One of the koonkees bore a calf to one of the wild elephants now reclaimed.

Their stand may be seen from a great distance, from the immense quantity of their accumulated dung, forming long-continued hillocks.

The young ca. ves, of which there are many, are exceedingly playful and roguish, and may be taught many diverting tricks. One of them was greatly petted—would come when he was

called by name, and used to chase his mother's keeper, butting him with his head, and, when that failed, turning suddenly round, and kicking him with his hind legs; all in the perfect and uncontrollable joyousness of infancy.

I should imagine that it would be much better for these animals' health and comfort, if they were kept in any of the adjacent mango groves, than on the open plain, exposed to all the changes of temperature. They are walked down to the river daily, to be bathed.

Elephants are subject to epidemic diseases, and Captain Broadfoot, of the Madras Commissariat, was so kind as to communicate the details of a disease of the lungs, which had played sad havoc, not only amongst the tame elephants, but amongst the wild ones of the forest. An assistant surgeon, a man of talent and research, investigated the disease, and at last succeeded in curing it, when the disease had made but little progress, by copious bleedings. On dissection, it was discovered to be tubercular. As a matter worthy of record, this should have been published, but I believe the discoverer was repaid in that manner so peculiar to the government of India, and hi-

therto unpractised in Europe; and, in consequence, it will soon be buried in oblivion.

On the 29th of February, I first discovered the caper bush in flower, growing down the sides of the old wall of the Kutra, or Seraee, in the lane adjoining my residence; and in a few days more, I found a large bush in full flower, near the southern end of the river-side walk; and a beautiful sight it was.

The difference observable in the countenances of the Hindoostanee and Bungalee, is very remarkable. Those of the latter are of a most feminine cast; so much so, that up to the age of eighteen, I find considerable difficulty in deciding whether a young person, clothed in snowy white muslin, advancing towards me, with covered head, be male or female. The voices of the young men closely resemble those of women; in fact, I have often been completely deceived, until I saw the speaker or singer within a few yards.

While taking their morning or evening rides, I warn all strangers to avoid the skirts of the jungle surrounding the city, especially at sunset, at which period I always felt a sudden chill on entering or passing its borders. They

abound in picturesque rides, adorned by numerous ancient mosques and tombs, which attest its former prosperity, for the distance of nearly two miles. But the days of Dhacca's prosperity departed with the French revolution of 1793; and that, we all know, was caused by the infidel and licentious works of Voltaire, Condorcet, Mirabeau, D'Alembert, &c. (vide pages 164, 165, &c., of "Faber on the Prophecies.") Therefore, when Ensign Snobbs or Snooks is seized by a bilious intermittent, which is to be cured by quinine from Peru, let him not blame the poor marshes, but the impiety of Voltaire.

The climate of Dhacca, surrounded as it is by a net-work of large marshes and rivers, is exceedingly damp, and hence cool in all seasons of the year. During my residence, every second or third day was ushered in by fogs, rapidly spreading and disappearing after sunrise. It also rained frequently, and few days passed without clouds and occasional thunder storms.

I received great kindness, both from old and new friends, while at Dhacca; and I cordially thank them for their hospitality to a gossiping stranger.

And now, my considerate reader, supposing you to be a man of the world, (quoad politics) and somewhat acquainted with the necessity of preventing public discussion on points not quite ripe for disclosure, you will not be much surprised when I tell you (in confidence) that I at last discovered, in a manner which I am not at liberty to mention, that my nomination to the Oyster commissionership was one of those delicate measures, for which my illustrious friend (you must guess who) is getting rather famous. On mature consideration of the subject, I must allow that he shewed much of his usual discretion in directing my course southwards, without drawing public attention to my progress. The numerous Chinese spies in the Cofsitollah were on the keen look out for information, as to the real views of government, and had it been but known, for certain, that China, and not Chittagong, was my ulterior destination, not only might stocks have suddenly fallen in the market, and crushed the capitalists of Calcutta, but most surely would important communications have been conveyed to the patriot Lin!

Admire, therefore, with me, the ingenious and delicate way in which my assistance was

required at the dark hour of peril! the bishop being also absent. Perhaps you will say that the secret ought to have been communicated to me; but there I grieve that I must differ with you, for I myself have seen so much betrayal of confidence and undisguisable treachery amongst rogues, (I mean, pseudo political characters,) that on the whole, I feel that I have no reason to be hurt at the caution observed. I might illustrate, but forbear.

I, therefore, without compromising my illustrious friend, declared publicly to certain subordinate officers, that I desired to be permitted to resign the commissionership, but without giving reasons; that might not have suited the views of government, as you will probably observe, at no distant period, in the Government Gazette.

I quietly hired a large budgerow and two very large Dhacca pulwars, carefully re-shipping her Highness and sundries, as per invoice; and on the evening of the 4th of February, I slept on the Booree Gunga, setting my face towards the City of Palaces, which I had not visited for nearly twenty-one years.

February 5th.—Thick fog at daybreak, and as the tide was against us, we were obliged to

push a pole down the river, and afterwards pull with goors on the west bank.

About a mile below the city, the prospect was certainly very imposing and beautiful. The mills, houses of the commissioner and other gentlemen, appeared more like palaces, reflected on the calm water, than ordinary dwelling houses.

Passed the Panghul port, or Fool's-bridge, which is flanked by two small ornamented towers: one of its arches is perfectly destroyed, and the other quite cracked through. The larks soaring and singing delightfully.

About three o'clock, P.M., we reached Moonshee-Gunje, and fastened the budgerow, having lost sight of the *batterie de cuisine*. The wind, strong and adverse, increased the swell of the river to such a degree that I felt considerably squeamish, and determined to land until the cook-boat arrived. The Gunje, or grain market, ran parallel to the river, within eighty or ninety yards, and consisted of a long street of bamboo-framed houses, somewhat more lofty than usual. They are all removed during the rains, as at that season their site is submerged.

I walked to the shop of a cloth merchant, and called for a monda, or stool. The merchant's son, a polite youth of about eleven years of age, wearing a necklace of amulets, brought me a small cane stool, four inches and a half high, and eight inches in diameter. I returned thanks, but respectfully stated, that if I seated myself on so low an article, the chances were that I should find some difficulty in rising. On which a venerable, remarkably well-oiled, and closely-shaved dealer in grain, immediately left the house of assembly, and quickly returned with another stool, considerably larger and more substantial; so that by placing the little stool uppermost, between the two stools, I was enabled to defeat the proverb.

When they saw that I was quite at my ease, the whole of my native friends, consisting of a dozen of men, and a score of boys of all ages, began to cross-question me, as to my wives, children, rank, &c. After having ascertained that I travelled unaccompanied by my native official servants, one of them, a man of about forty-five, immediately volunteered to accompany me in the capacity of Bungalee writer and accountant, provided I would agree

to give him ten rupees a month, and first of all deposit 2000 rupees with a friend of his, as security for my good conduct. The spectators joining most freely in the conversation, declared that the offer was most advantageous to my interests, and that I was getting the man very cheap indeed! They also informed me that he was esteemed a man of great talent, and had saved many hundreds of rupees in business. By way of inducing me to accept of his liberal offer, he said he would even accompany me to China.

A little girl, of about five years of age, happening to pass, I begged that they would bring her to me, that I might speak to her. They called her, and she turned round to listen; but, on hearing for what purpose she had been stopped, she screamed violently, and ran like a deer.

I asked, "What makes your females so frightened?" They answered me, "Why, they think white men are like so many tigers, to be sure." "But, why?" "Oh, of course, we teach them so! They are all terribly afraid of the Feringees!" and then they all burst into a roar of laughter at the ingenious device!

The "lost Pleiad" having arrived, I returned

to my boat to dinner, and, whether from the river air, or other mysterious cause, I relished my kid cutlets and tamarind shurbut most heartily. After the cloth was removed, the fleet dropped down until we reached the mouth of a small river on our right bank, called the Mukhoo Kiaree, where, close to the bank, on which grew a crop of young indigo, we fastened our boats for the night. The tide rises here to the height of about four feet.

6th.—The morning foggy and cloudy, with a strong damp south wind from the sea. One of the Government steamers passed me without either hoisting her colours or firing a salute; in consequence of which negligence I allowed her to pass on (although within hail) without notice; and thus, instead of finding me at Dhacca, the careless commander will be compelled to return to Calcutta with a mere freight of treasure. It will operate, I hope, as a warning, to keep a better look out in future: on the present occasion, as the ships have been only just engaged for the China expedition, my arrival in Calcutta a few days later, will not, I have every reason to believe, operate much to the disadvantage of Government.

The left bank of the river being occasionally

some miles distant, I can but barely see with the telescope where tributary branches from the Megna are received; but this happens repeatedly.

Until nine o'clock we were gooned along the right bank of a low island, covered with high dense grass, swarming with wild hogs, hog deer, and floricans. At the edges were congregated flocks of water game, such as geese and ducks of various species, while ever and anon long strings of krâkool, or Savannah cranes, passed over our boats, screaming, as is their wont, most piercingly. The breast of a sârus is convertible, for the nonce, into a most delicious beef-steak; and if a drop or two of mushroom ketchup be added, the delusion is covered, as it were, with a boat cloak, defying detection.

At his own request, I entrusted one of my double-barrelled guns to a tall, noseless, dandee, who, accompanied by another, who had a nose, jumped into the river, and waded ashore: then, having wholly disappeared in the high grass, he gradually crept round, until being within shot, he fired at an immense flock of unsuspicious ducks; but, alas! unsuccessfully.

"Wâh! wâh! âc! wâh!" exclaimed the dan-

dees of the boat. "What bad luck! what a sad disappointment! Wâh! wâh!"

Life, said I, my dear brethren, is full of similar disappointments. We load our guns of youth with hope and high spirits, wadding with care, caution, or cunning, and, creeping along silently and unobserved, endeavour to approach the game of wealth, fame, or honour: finding ourselves at last within shot, we fire, and our produce is—

"Sorry you are too late." "X has higher claims." "Y got a papa, chairman." "Z, a sister married to a director." "Deep regret, and future opportunity," &c.

And then, jackasses worry their stomachs into dyspepsy! But when, my amiable dandees, has it been otherwise? Was not Jacob diddled out of Rachel? Was not one of the mistresses of Louis le Grand very properly and justly superseded in her office, because she was so very giddy and irreligious? Was not Holt M'Kenzie ousted in the matter of the Elgin boroughs, although he owned the soft impeachment of an "hereditary affection"? And did not Hunt, the blacking-man, attain unto the dignity of an M.P.? It is therefore I complain not that our brother missed the ducks,

seeing that history testifieth that others have also been disappointed! They smiled and ceased to murmur.

The luggage-boat being clean out of sight, I determined to enter the Kâchee Ghatta Ke Khâree, in which we dined, and remained during the night. The fertile lands, on both sides, are covered with zealous agriculturists; the men employed in scratching the land with a plough and pair of pigmy, starveling bullocks; the women and children gathering the heavy harvest of legumes, to be converted into dhâl.

Here and there I observed patches of chilies, varying in size, from a quarter to a full acre in extent, most carefully planted at regular intervals, and weeded most perfectly, bearing very heavy crops. The soil is, in fact, renewed annually from the inundation, and never five feet above water; it appears and feels in the hand like pounded steatite, soft, friable, and greasy. The land is infested, to a lamentable extent, by rats, which destroy a large proportion of the crops.

The villages are highly picturesque. On the middle of a large, flat plain, either placed accidentally on high spots, or artificially raised from four to six feet above ground, on wooden

props, generally surrounded by clusters of fruit trees, or gardens of plantains. Indigo is here cultivated to a large extent, on the churs, or islands, on the river. The plant can be transported to a great distance in boats, before it suffers any injury, in such a very damp climate; but the inundation renders it a very precarious crop.

7th.—While uncertain whether it would be prudent to leave the missing boat in the rear, a little before sunrise, I had the happiness to observe my kind young friend Doorga, my washerman's "second son," walking most leisurely towards me, to announce that during the darkness of the night, it had passed my budgerow with the flood tide, and was now a couple of miles a-head.

The morning ushered in with a heavy fog, clouds, and a strong southerly wind in our teeth. A little after sunrise, we passed a handsome pinnace, proceeding under full-sail to Dhacca; and soon after, entered the Buna Gunga. The whole country seems perfectly intersected with great and small rivers; so much so, that, in fact, I am inclined to believe that the water greatly preponderates over the land.

The tide turning against us, we were unable to proceed, and hence obliged to return into the Kharee, at seven A.M., the waves having began to dash the budgerow with violence against the banks. We remained there the whole day, as the strength of the wind prevented me crossing the broad river, which appeared more like an arm of the sea.

In the afternoon I took a lesson in marine engineering, having been witness to the process of making a wooden anchor, which is as follows:—Two stout pieces of wood, each about three feet and a quarter long, curved as the segments of a circle of about seven feet in diameter, being six inches in breadth, and four thick, were crossed at right angles, and the centre of the crossing was pierced through by a stout bamboo; less than two inches in diameter. The outer end of each of the four flukes admitted another bamboo, and these were all fastened on by wedges. These four bamboos were about six feet long, and were united at the end by strong twine; thus forming a cone. Within this cone, a stout mat was repeatedly rolled, and when sufficiently thick, was fastened outwardly, with twine rolled round, and over that

by strong slips of bamboo. Finally, the cone was filled with heavy, wet clay, rammed down until quite hard; the mouth of the cone was then tied, and the anchor, which did not cost a rupee, was fit for immediate use, and may last for many months.

At night the tides were strong and noisy, with high winds, and waves sufficiently powerful to toss the budgerow about like a bit of cork. The wind was amazingly damp, with frequent, heavy showers. The river was not less than five or six miles wide, and interspersed with great and little islands, of all heights, some of which were gradually washing away: one was so much reduced as to appear a solitary black rock.

8th.—Loosened our fleet before breakfast, to cross the wide expanse of river during the ebb-tide, the wind being then most trifling, and the water perfectly smooth.

About mid-day, passed a promontory, on the left, being part of a large island, which appeared covered with a tall, dense forest, to the water's edge, and not above six or seven feet above its ordinary level; but the manjee told me, that within, it was richly cultivated,

and produces large quantities of rice, beetel-nuts, and other valuable articles. No natives were visible with my telescope.

The river, at this part, appeared quite a sea in breadth, the opposite banks being but barely visible to the naked eye.

At last we reached the opposite, or western side, and gooned along a bank covered with rank jungle and beetel-nut groves; having occasionally peeps at solitary huts and villages, until we reached a creek, in which we anchored for the night, our cooking and baggage-boats having entirely disappeared during the time of our crossing the river. Fortunately we brought two raw kismidars and a few clean daighchees with us, on which we contrived to improvise a dinner and nocturnal repast.

During the night, although the creek was not 200 yards broad, a gale of wind blew with such strength, that we were in imminent danger of being dashed to fragments on the lee-shore. It was accompanied with thunder and forked lightning, which lasted until morning. One of the boats in our neighbourhood broke loose, by dragging its anchor, and it was with great difficulty that we could prevent its beating against us. The loud noise and great

fright of both crews was considerably heightened by the roar of the gale and the lashings of the surge. So great was the rocking, that I was attacked with headache, and felt a decided nausea, with occasional *tristes souvenirs* of yesterday's dinner.

While seated on the bank before dinner, I saw a wild, Malay-looking native proceed to the jungle, with a single-barrelled fowling piece. He quickly returned with a large and beautiful eagle, of the most exquisite plumage. It was one of the most handsome of the genus that I had ever seen. We speedily entered into conversation, and he informed me that he was a native of the Casia hills, and resident at Cherra Poonjee, returning home after having accompanied a medical gentleman to Calcutta. The gun was a present from his master.

CHAPTER X.

The jungle—The buceros—Its extraordinary faculty of feeding on the nux vomica—Wild boar—Sagacity of birds—Character of the jungle vegetation—Malaria and its effects—Singular mushroom—Wild cardamom—Singular timidity of the natives—Immense hail-stones—Porpoises—Leaping fishes—Burisol—Hindoo temple—Great inundation—Filthy spot—Distinction between Upper and Lower India—Village of Nunchuttee—Singular river craft—Mugs—Making jaggery—Fresh-water shells—Village of Hownee—Vegetable marriage—Traffic in date sap—The beetel-nut—Cross-questioning—The Beggar's harbour—Native roguery—Singular curiosity—Preparation of beetel nut—Singular faculty of fish—The plantain—A handsome beggar—A cool customer—Native curiosity—Coolna.

Feb. 9th.—Left the boat before sunrise in the morning, and entered the jungle, accompanied by two volunteer dandies. After passing a most romantic and beautiful village, completely sheltered by beetel-nut palms and

mango trees, we traversed a dense strip of forest, through a pathway, until we reached a cultivated plain of some hundred acres, on all sides bordered by the wild unreclaimed forest. I might have easily killed scores of eagles, hawks, kites, and toucans, as they allowed me to approach within pistol distance, but I only bagged an eagle and a buceros.

I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Curtis, senior, of the Civil Service, for the knowledge of a most curious fact, connected with this last named singular bird: it eats the nux vomica with impunity! He has seen them plucking the nuts, or beans, fresh from the bush, and devouring them. Nux vomica produces in abundance the deadly poison called "strychnine," of which one quarter of a grain, thrust into the wound of a wild boar, killed the animal in ten minutes.

I was a perfect stranger to nearly all the birds. The raptores seemed to abound in a most unusual degree. I observed one which had a white tail, edged with black or brown lozenge-shaped border, that had a most singular effect while in motion, appearing as if the body part of each feather had been removed.

The natives, in answer to my inquiries, pointed to a jheel, or marsh, a few hundred yards distant, but before I could reach it, a large fat hog walked most innocently and leisurely before me, but unfortunately out of my reach with shot. Thinking him a villager, I allowed him to pass, but the guides told me that he was a wild one. I gave chase, after extracting the shot and substituting ball, but in a few seconds he entered the jungle, which I was informed contained countless thousands, at a gentle trot, and was hidden a second after.

I reached the jheel, and found it to contain many manickchors, ibis, paddy birds, &c., but they had taken the precaution of posting sentries on the tops of the surrounding trees, in a manner so discreet and military, that when I fired I discovered that I was not within killing distance.

The smell of the jungle air appeared terribly rank: what with innumerable flowering creepers, cane bushes of the most ferocious and attractive habits, bulbous roots of various genera, enormous cotton-trees, covered with a network of vegetable cables, terminating in immense bean-pods, from five to six feet in length, hanging and waving in the breeze like

huge sabres, and the brushwood below, it was excessively wearying to force one's way to the cleared spots. The leaves under foot were damp and rotten, sinking under me at every step for many inches.

We occasionally met pools of different sizes, and on approaching them, were struck with the air of devastation and malaria by which they were distinguished. Huge trees lay rotting on the banks, piled over each other; others were on the point of falling; the surface of the water choked with green scum, feathers of water-fowl, water-lily, and large green edible frogs, croaking without intermission, were enough to damp the strongest animal spirits. Our guides seemed quite afraid of such spots, and on looking round, I found that they had all disappeared, having fairly taken to their heels, and awaited my return to the open ground.

Common ground and tree ferns were abundant, and on the fallen trees I found the mushroom, with *inverted top*, filled with the night-dews. None of them exceeded an inch and a half in diameter, and all were of a dark cinnamon colour, with thin white stems.

On the edges of the forest, the wild carda-

mom grows in the rankest luxuriance, to the height of twelve or fourteen feet, and as thick as the crop of joâr. The berries grow at the top, and although flavoured as the cultivated species, they were rather acrid and disagreeable. The villagers seem chiefly, if not solely, to rely on their fine crops of rice. The greater part of the stalk is left to rot, or be burnt for manure. They also grow a little coarse tobacco and chilies, both of which are carefully weeded.

Not one thousandth part of the ground is under cultivation, and that only in the immediate vicinage of the villages, which are generally surrounded by the graceful beetel-nut palms.

The inhabitants are fully as shy as the wild hogs, or deer; for when I endeavoured to speak to them, or call them to me from a distance, they immediately squatted down, and then ran crouching away. This is what I should have expected on the greater or less Andaman, but I was not certainly prepared for such an appearance of timidity in the lower part of Bengal. When we crossed the river, for a safe anchorage, from the nature of the cover on the opposite bank, which was covered with tall grass, I expected florican.

To be sure of a fact so peculiarly interesting, I roared out to an elderly man, standing about a hundred and fifty yards off, for information. The instant he heard me he dropped down, and the next moment I saw him running at the top of his speed on the other side of a creek!

I then sauntered towards some dwellings, belonging to the cow-herds who grazed on the island; but the instant I approached the gate of their inclosure, the inhabitants concealed themselves, and all my endeavours to enter into communication were utterly fruitless.

About mid-day we had a strong gale of wind, and smart showers of rain, during which our missing boats rejoined. Loosened our boats, and after an hour's sail, with wind and tide in our favour, perceived an indigo factory right ahead. Soon after, from the fear of another approaching storm, prudence dictated the necessity of re-anchoring, until we had enjoyed a profusion of thunder, lightning, and rain, with enormous hailstones, some nearly two inches in diameter, of an irregular figure, and generally with a broad white belt or nucleus in their centre.

The porpoises in the river seemed to delight

in the storm, as they continued rising constantly, and occasionally leaping clean out of the water.

Lugâod at two o'clock for the day, but after lying for a quarter of an hour, again unloosed, and gooned along the banks until eight o'clock, when we "shut up" for the night in what the mangee called a creek, but which was an open river full four hundred yards wide. Luckily the night proved as calm as it was cool and delightful.

10th.—Unloosed at the usual hour. The air cool, and the surface of the river calm and unruffled. As often as our goon touched the water, hundreds of little silvery chulwa fishes, as if frightened, preceded it, leaping ducks and drakes, sparkling most splendidly in the sun. Some repeated their leaps for full twenty feet, until their strength seemed to fail them; others more slowly, three or four feet at a time; and as all caused circles at every leap, which, although cut, still remained distinct until they disappeared, I was reminded of the exquisite workmanship to be seen on the cases of engine-turned watches.

About ten o'clock entered a creek on our right, which led direct to Burisol. Its banks

were not six feet higher than the river at high water, and were covered with little villages, surrounded by large gardens of plantains interspersed with date-trees.

The cattle grazing close to us, were all lean and emaciated, not one of moderate fatness being visible.

At two P. M., we reached the civil station of Burisol, on the right bank. The most striking feature of the landscape consisted in the spire of a conical temple to Kâlee, at the extremity of the peninsula. The village itself is adorned with numerous cocoa-nut trees, and has a considerable space cleared to the north. The river, or rather creek, is about three hundred and fifty yards broad.

11th.—Took my morning *reconnoissance*. The roads in the native part of the town are made of broken bricks, retained at the sides with the same material. The houses are chiefly of rushes, bamboos, and reeds: not a tiled roof to be seen. The shops of the cloth and other merchants are built of coarse, burnt bricks, without plaster, and are generally ornamented with Ionic pilasters, supporting nothing, as usual. The town abounds in excavations, alternately dry or filled with

stagnant water, unquestionably productive of malarious diseases; but the magistrate informed me that the town was generally very healthy: if so, it is, no doubt, owing to the sea breezes.

The houses of the Europeans, which run along the bank of the river, have generally handsome pucka ghats, or landing stairs, for the convenience of embarking on the boats, for travelling in the district,—no other mode being practicable in this part of Bengal, owing to the multitude of rivers.

About eighteen years ago, the whole country was inundated, and the lives of thousands of natives were in consequence lost. The loss in grain and cattle was also very great; but these were supplied by a public subscription at Calcutta.

During my evening walk, I was both astonished and disgusted at the extreme filthiness of the village and its suburbs. There is a tank, clean or dirty, every hundred yards; and the jail itself has a tidal rivulet on one side, and two long and narrow tanks on two others. Every bungalow is divided from the neighbouring one by a deep and broad ditch, into which every species of garbage is indis-

criminately thrown; and the combined odour of all these delicacies is, as you may believe, in such a hot climate, sufficiently powerful. We were obliged to wait the whole day to get a supply of bread and butter, vegetables, &c.

In two points, I could not help observing a strongly marked difference between the inhabitants of the upper and lower provinces—viz., in the air of superior comfort, and the sleekness of the men and animals in Bengal. The day labourers at Burisol appear both fat and clean. The dogs are nearly twice the bulk of those in Upper India. This can only be caused by the cheapness of the common food. The inhabitants, generally, are infinitely more cleanly in their persons and dress.

12th.—Unloosed at daybreak, in a thick fog, and gooned down on the east side of the river. About three quarters of a mile below the civil cantonments, and on the same side, we passed a large upper-roomed house: from its chimney, it was evidently a manufactory; but whether of sugar or indigo, the dandies would not or could not inform me.

The forest appears about three quarters of a mile distant from the bank, and this open space is occupied either as a grazing ground

for their cattle, or for raising crops of rice. The bank never rises above seven feet. A few palms and dates begin to appear.

About twelve o'clock, after laboriously gooning every inch of the way, we reached the pretty village of Nunchuttee, on the left bank. At this place a great number of boats were congregated. It is inhabited by industrious Mugs, who sought and obtained shelter from the oppressions of their rulers in their native land, more than twenty years ago. The bazar abounds in articles required by the natives, as food or luxuries. The river continues about three hundred and fifty yards broad. Strange to say, instead of the parabolic curve, the huts are here perfectly flat in their roofs.

Many two-masted Mug boats, from Chittagong, were lying at anchor; these, instead of being clamped together with iron, are sown together with rattans, and hence can bear much beating on shoals or lee shores, without damage. They are very long and narrow, painted black, and have a sort of double prow, which, with the sterns, are highly carved and ornamented. The latter are raised about fifteen feet out of the water, and reminded me

of the old prints of our first English men-of-war.

These boats are generally freighted with teak planks and rice from Chittagong, and return with a cargo of beetel-nuts, procurable in the surrounding country. A very brisk trade in the above articles is carried on between this village and Calcutta, and several sloops were lading with rice.

After a few minutes we proceeded on our journey, and soon passed an elegant and expensive mansion, built, as I was informed, for an indigo factor. The planter died a year ago, soon after it was finished, and his remains were interred within a few yards of his intended mansion, under a plain tomb.

Turning over to our right, we entered a very small river, and a little further passed the village of Jâlookâtee, at which an immense quantity of pottery is made for native consumption, and exported to foreign parts. Here we lugâod, under the pretence that we must wait for the favourable tide, but in reality to enable the dandies to purchase kuddoos, or pumpkins, for food; for in a few minutes the boats were re-loosed, and we continued our course until sunset, in a river not above forty feet wide, and as regular in its section as a

canal. When we met other boats, we sometimes found passing them a matter of considerable difficulty.

Emerging through the dense jungle, with now and then a group of cottages, we came at last to an extensive open plain; and each side of the river was bounded by villanous marshes, covered with bulrushes. In them I saw the purple gallinule, bitterns, herons, flocks of ducks, with innumerable long-legged, indescribable birds. No doubt but that wild hogs and hog-deer frequented the interior.

Passed a long Chittagong bullum-boat, which was proceeding from Calcutta to Nunchuttee with a cargo of live wild Mugs. They seem very good-tempered creatures, for the slightest notice makes them display their ivories. Their countenances are something between those of the Nipaulese and the Malays, with a dash of the English mastiff.

The banks were sometimes covered with wild cardamoms, cane brakes, and flowering shrubs, as at Dhacca. We passed a few cleared spots, on which small crops of cotton were growing in half and whole acre lots.

It is very strange that not a single buffalo is to be seen, although one would think the country created for their sole use.

The labour of the poor dandies in gooning was very painful; as they had to pull the boat, while immersed from the knees to the hips in black, creamy mud. They never complained, but were constantly playing practical jokes until evening; and on the turn of the tide, they rowed for some hours during the night, during which I found the moschetoes very plentiful. I did not feel at all comfortable at the prospect of sleeping in the neighbourhood of such a pestilential marsh; but comforted myself with "Jo Hobqum!"* a plaster for all sores.

13th.—This morning the river gradually widened to one hundred yards, and so far as I could see through the dense fog, the adjacent lands on both sides were cleared and cultivated. A great profusion of bulbous roots were growing on the banks amongst the bulrushes.

Reached a village, the inhabitants of which were occupied in making jaggery, from the sap of the date-trees.

Arrived at Gopuree bazar, on the right bank, by seven in the morning, after passing

* "Whatever the order may be"—i.e., *Whatever is ordained*;—a Mohammedan phrase.

a creek running due north, into the interior. Large pawn gardens, the produce of which is sent to Calcutta. The air often darkened by flights of parrots. The cane plants rose here to the tops of the highest trees.

Large univalve fresh-water shells were sticking to the banks, about a foot under the line of the tides.

Passed on to the village of Hownee, where, under some pretext or another, the manjee chose to fasten the boats. It produces jaggery and beetel-nuts. Finding the open air much cooler than that of the boat, I sat on a chair, under the shade of a goolur, or wild fig-tree, which had been some years previous married to a palm. They had no family; but the goolur embraced the palm with the most marked affection.

The natives, who surrounded and conversed with me, begged that I would remove, as a raven had built its nest above, and in consequence, my seat might prove unlucky. Each date-tree here — and there were countless thousands—daily produces from a seer to a seer and a quarter of juice, or sap, which is boiled down to the required thickness, and then "fixed" in earthen jars for sale; each pot

containing from five to six seers, at the rate of about two rupees a maund.

On examining the husks of the beetel-nut, I have no doubt but that a strong and useful paper might be made from them: the natives make no use of them, so that they might be had in immense quantities for the expense of gathering. I suspect they contain a considerable quantity of tannin.

I was quickly surrounded by a crowd of natives, who, as usual, began to cross-question me. Was I married? Where was my spouse? How many children were born unto me? What was my profession—a judge? No! A Sâhib magistrate? No! Then was uttered an expressive grunt, which proved clearly to me that I had sadly degraded myself by the disclosure!

We again cast ourselves on the waters, and I soon after purchased two fine large sea mullets, and most delicious fishes they were, for sixpence sterling. On taking payment, the fisherman protested against receiving the Company's new pice, as not circulating freely in these distant parts!

Pulled and sailed through a long and eternally winding river, lined with elegant trees hanging over the banks, during a bright and

splendid moonlight night, and about midnight, anchored off the village called Faqueer Bundur, —viz., the Beggar's harbour—although every native gave it a different name. On the opposite side of the river, a large brick enclosure contained the zemindar's cutchery, or office.

The dandees requested permission to stop at the village, until they had purchased large earthen jars for holding fresh water, as when we shall have reached the Soondurbunds, we shall find the water unfit for the use of animals. I consented, and soon after followed them to the bazar, to witness the wrangling-match, and pick up, perhaps, a lesson in Bungalee life.

After inspecting the jars, the dandees very wisely required that their retaining properties should be carefully tested, before the purchases were completed. The jar-vendors agreed to their being taken down to the river, but wisely objected to their being filled! Ingenious, but unavailing! I backed the dandees, and in five minutes out-talked the wondering merchants, who said they would *now* consent to any terms I thought proper to propose.

They were immediately carried to the river, and returned as perfectly worthless; in fact, I suspect that they were old stagers. The neigh-

bouring shopkeepers began to laugh heartily when they were brought back and rejected, having foreseen the result.

Prolonging my walk, I observed a singular curiosity,—a small doom-covered building, about eight feet square, with walls two feet thick, had accidentally received a peepul seed, which had taken root, and become a tree. In the course of a few years, it had thrown out roots, which completely surrounded the building; and eventually the roof was sustained entirely by the tree, now above fifty feet high; and the natives had removed the walls. The effect was strikingly picturesque, and only required a venerable, long white-bearded faqueer, to make it perfect. Something nearly similar I have since observed on the Garden-reach road.

A large quantity of soopâree, or beetel-nuts, in husk, was here collected for sale, and kept in cylindrical masses, retained in coarse sacking, or gunny.

Close to it was a manufactory of the same article, undergoing the process of being softened, as I was told, for the teeth of old and infirm people, for whom the beetel-nut was too hard for mastication.

The nuts in husk were immersed in large earthen jars, with water up to their necks, and were evidently undergoing some part of the process of fermentation, for they emitted a very strong smell of tannin. One of the nuts was given me for examination, and I found it both soft and much swollen. After this operation, the dealer told me that their price was raised to five rupees the maund, or thousand nuts, and they were all preparing for the Calcutta market.

I attended the fish market held at the ghat of the village. An oblong building, perhaps forty feet long and twenty broad, was roofed with cocoa-nut leaves, and supported on posts On the floor within, numerous jars of water were sunk, for the purpose of keeping the fish alive.

Most of them, in fact, were taken by basket-loads out of the wells of the fishing-boats, and weighed from eight pounds to as many ounces. There were eight or ten varieties; and amongst them the soulee, mirghee, and rohoo singhee—the latter both of the genus cyprinus. Considering the abundance of food, it appeared to me that the fish realized very high prices. One species was eminently endowed with the

power of locomotion, as the moment they were cast on the ground, they began, with the aid of their fins, to leap very nimbly in the direction of the river; some of those I watched, reached the distance of thirty feet in a minute.

Being a market day, large quantities of plantains, gourds of different sorts, tamarinds, bainguns, and beetel-nuts, were brought for sale; besides a root of a large esculent vegatable, called panee kuchoo, something resembling an arum. Observing that some of the plantains were very large, I desired one of my servants to procure some money, to purchase a few from the boat; but before he returned, a native presented me with one of the species I admired, and said—"Sir, before you make any purchase, do me the favour to taste this one." I salaamed, and accepted the fruit so politely offered. It was certainly very rich, and deliciously flavoured, but, to my great astonishment, so full of seeds, that it was with the greatest difficulty I could separate any of the flesh, which adhered firmly to the seeds. Many of them were empty, but some contained the usual farina, equal, I fancy, in nutritive properties, to arrow root.

A young handsome Bramin addressed me,

while walking about, and after explaining his rank, begged alms! The knave was nicely dressed, and appeared rather over than under fed.

My servants were cautioned by the dandees, that the village was famous for thieves and petty robberies, and in consequence, all were on the *qui vive*. Notwithstanding this, an old man and a slim boy, under pretence of begging, approached the budgerow windows, on the side facing the water, and were very nearly successful in abstracting a shawl and some children's clothing. They attempted the robbery in a very slight canoe, which the old thief paddled. The boy was meant for the purpose of entering the cabin, had they not been perceived peeping wistfully into the boat. I recognised the old man begging in the bazar, and taxed him with his intention of robbing me. He looked at me for a moment, remained quite silent, and then walked away, perfectly cool and unconcerned. The lookers-on heard the accusation, did not seem at all surprised, nor did they make any remark, although glances were interchanged. I suspect they recognised the old Mussulman as a confirmed thief, well known in the village. He was approaching to seventy years of age,

and as a matter of course, was decorated with a necklace of beads of glass, agates, and coral, with a venerable snowy beard down to his girdle.

The old trees in the midst of the village, whether kuttul or mango, were covered at their forks with ribband fern, and another (to me unknown) species, and a parasitical plant, which I was informed produced white flowers during the rains. Ripe jack fruit was already in the bazar, and for one weighing not under fourteen pounds, they asked twelve pice, or three annas.

I ordered a chair from the budgerow, after breakfast, which I placed under the shade of a large mango-tree. I was soon surrounded by natives, with whom I carried on a conversation with great difficulty, through the medium of one of their number, who spoke a little wretched Hindoostance, and who boasted that he had visited Calcutta. He explained to the mob that I was a cleanly animal, for he had seen me bathing; but when I added, that I often bathed three times a day, for months together, and dressed each time with clean clothes, I perceived that I rose rapidly in their estimation. My interpreter said that I ate

hot or stimulating food, and that was the cause. "Yes," said another, "he is evidently a hot-blooded animal!" and then a laugh went round. They desired to know how many children I had, and whether in my travels I carried my zunana with me. They next requested that I would send for one of my children, that they might all see him!

I pleaded the heat of the sun, and they apologized. When the mob retired, a young Mussulman requested the honour of a private interview, which being granted, I discovered that the object was to enter my service.

At high water, we commenced pulling, and about three o'clock lugâod at Coolna, at which place the Company's steamers supply themselves with coals, on their passage up to Allahabad, during the dry weather, when the rivers are shallow.

On going ashore, I found that besides the depôt, there was an indigo factory, belonging to a gentleman of the name of Rennie, who was absent at Jessore.

CHAPTER XI.

Entrance of the Soondurbunds—Storm and extraordinary hail-stones—Account of a remarkable hail-storm in Central India—The philosophy of storms—Splendid flower—Gorgeous spectacle of fire-flies—Timidity of the natives—Clearing the Soondurbunds—Progress of civilization, marked by parasols—Immense burgot-tree—Village of Moorcha—The cocoa-nut—A narrow escape—Village of Banstullah—Herd of buffaloes—Native obstinacy—Singular vegetable phenomenon—Alarming foot-prints—Government salt-factory—A family of tigers—Village of Dhee—Approach to Calcutta—Female bathers—Tolly Mullah—India Company's seminary at Allipore—Suspension bridges on the Hoogly—Steam-tugs first proposed by the author—Calcutta—The Bishop's college—Native modesty—Great improvements of the city—A false prophet—Lord W. Bentinck—Native liberality—A palpable hit—How to thrive at Calcutta.

COOLNA is at the entrance of the Soondurbunds. Dropped down with a favourable wind and tide, but in less than a quarter of an hour were caught in a violent storm of thunder and lightning, heightened with hailstones. These

were precisely similar to those which lately fell; and further proof need not be required to shew that there must be a manufactory of the article on a grand scale in the immediate neighbourhood. The lightning was exceedingly brilliant.

It may not be deemed irrelevant by meteorologists, if I give a short description of a hail-storm to which I was once subjected, while marching over a part of Central India. I had pitched my single-poled tent on a fine grassy sod, in the shade of an old burgot, close to some old palms, to whose roots I tied my tent-ropes for security. It was about the middle of the month of January, and I had left Sauguor, *en route* to Cawnepore, three marches. About five in the afternoon, the horizon to the west became darkened by a dense black stripe of cloud, which rose gradually to the height of about forty-five degrees before I was much alarmed. Then came gusts of cold wind, each lasting a minute or two—then a gale, which lasted for a quarter of an hour, the sky gradually darkening. At last there was a perfect lull, and then a few drops of rain—a slight shower, and then another lull. Suddenly a sound, the most ter-

rific that human ears ever heard, as that of a million of cavalry galloping over a plain of marble, advancing, until I could not believe that I was listening to mere sound, but to something of which I had hitherto had no experience. This continued for a quarter of an hour. The top or roof of my tent having been tightened by the rain, the hailstones caused it to rattle as if it had been a drum. I expected every moment to see the tent blown to atoms, but the ropes having been carefully tied, it was thereby saved. The corners, however, were weighed down with maunds of hailstones. When the storm finished, I rushed out, and found what had lately been a beautiful, uninterrupted sheet of green corn, for miles, was now glistening six inches deep with hailstones—the whole appearance of the country being that of an English winter. The leaves of the burgot, which are nearly as thick and tough as cows' skin, were cut to pieces; enormous boughs had been broken, and thrown on the ground, without being heard through the frightful blasts.

I marched five marches across the traces of this storm, and the leaves of all the trees bore the marks of the storm, in the same manner as did the burgot. I found that the storm had

begun to the west of Bhopal, at which place it blew away several of the tents of a marching regiment: at Jubbulpore, it unroofed the mess-room of a regiment while the officers were collected for dinner—rolled it up, as if a sheet of paper, and left it on the ground some hundred yards off. I succeeded in tracing this storm to Lucnow, but no further, as Europeans do not reside further east.

The *original impulse* of such a storm is inconceivable. It occurs to me that it can only be accounted for by the production of *continuing* vacuum, for some hundred miles. But how was that produced? Possibly by the passage of some celestial body within the sphere of the earth's atmosphere, rushing through it with incalculable velocity. It may be contended, that a body of the size necessary to cause such a commotion would be so great that it must needs be visible. To this, I answer that we are not yet—at least I may speak for myself—so well acquainted with the reflecting powers of all the bodies *in the universe*, as to be certain that they must all necessarily reflect the light of the sun. The power of reflecting light may be confined to those bodies with which we are acquainted. As the flight of such

a body would form a portion of a curve, it is evident that its power would be greatest when nearest the earth's surface; and hence we always observe that storms are most violent at particular parts.

As for such a storm originating in any change of the temperature of different portions of the earth's surface, that is out of the question; for the changes happen almost hourly, or, at least, daily; whereas storms such as I have feebly attempted to describe do not occur once in a dozen of years. The changes would be slow and gradual; but the wind of such storms travels more than a hundred miles an hour, in right lines, for hundreds of miles!

15th.—Loosened early in the morning, and about eight o'clock lugâod on the east bank of a river, close to a thick hedge, on passing which, extensive cultivation of paddy appeared. This was formerly part of the Soonderbunds. Along the edge of the fields, a small mud wall, of about a foot in height, had been built, to prevent inundation during high tides. The tide, however, rose to the level of a meadow within the inclosure. The soil was a very stiff, heavy clay.

I took a gun in my hands, and crossed a field nearest our boat, and found it a swamp,

covered with coarse grass, rushes, and paddy stalks, of great luxuriance. Cottages, mango and plantain trees, were visible in the distance. The grounds were perfectly Dutch in their appearance, and divided by stagnant ditches: in one of them I saw a shoal of small mullets, which had been left there by some spring tide.

On the sides of the ditches, a plant grew to the height of from five to six feet, which could not be distinguished from holly. The termination of the branches was crowned with a spike of flowers, of an etherial blue, something resembling a purple iris. The flower has one stamen, four anthers, one petal, with deep violet stripe in the centre. The seed-vessel is a pod, half-an-inch long, cylindrical, and contains four seeds. The cane plant has entirely disappeared.

While we had been gooning along the bank, the dandees discovered that two large boats, fastened a little in our rear, were fishing-boats, heavily laden. Taking advantage of this knowledge, they informed me that the fishermen had some remarkably fine fish for sale, and, running to the boat, began, *sans ceremonie*, to make most minute researches into the quality of their cargo. At last, hearing a

squabble, I began to suspect the truth, and then I was informed that the owners were great rogues and scoundrels, and naughty people, who would not sell their fish. Hearing this, I directed them to return immediately.

My principal *valet de chambre* informed me, that upwards of a hundred maunds of fish were reserved for the Calcutta market, to which the boats were proceeding; but they were all singhees, or soulees, both coarse fishes, fit for black men only; hence, except in famine to be carefully eschewed. My dandees expected to have purchased them as cheap as sunshine.

Observing a large bulbous root in flower, I directed one of the dandees to pull up the flower-stalk, and bring it to the boat. The man caught a firm hold of it by the root, and began pulling with all his might, but in vain. Another was then dispatched, and they tried together, but quite unsuccessfully! At last they requested that a hatchet might be handed to them, upon receiving which, it was cut off and sent me. It was a truly magnificent and gigantic flower. The stalk was four feet long, and as broad at the bottom as my four fingers.

At night, lugâod near some bushes covered

with millions of fire-flies—a most gorgeous spectacle.

16th.—At three in the morning, we began pulling down with the tide, and soon after, when it failed us, sheltered ourselves in a creek on the right, until the turn, when we proceeded, with a strong wind in our favour. The country still cleared and cultivated, wholly reclaimed from the forest, except at the edges of the river, where strips of jungle have been left, which act as hedges. Amongst these hedgerows, the goolcheen, a beautiful, flowering tree, and a variety of the hybiscus, were very conspicuous. The bulbous plants in the meadows were very numerous.

As we were pulling along slowly, I observed a young man, of about twenty-four, standing gazing at the approaching boat, as if he had some communication to make. When opposite and close to him, I inquired if there were any wild fowls in the neighbourhood? He looked very much alarmed, and gently retreating, answered "No." Are there any hog-deer? Still retreating—"No!" Are there any other sorts of deer? Backing still—"No! no!" At last, I slapped my hands together and gave a view hilloa! when he could no longer conceal his

terror, but bounded off, crying for mercy, and looking back to discover whether or not he was pursued! All the dandees laughed heartily at his fright. In fact, a New Hollander could not have displayed greater alarm. I must confess, that I can hardly believe it was unfounded; but how could it originally have arisen?

About ten o'clock reached the uncleared commencement of the Soondurbund, on the left side. The majority of the lofty trees were already cut, and many were burning; in some places the ground was preparing for a crop of rice, by cutting the high, reedy grass, through which no plough could pass.

Dropped down with the tide until sunset, when we anchored within thirty feet of the left bank, close to the luxuriant jungles, full of tigers, as the dandees informed me. Thousands of date-trees, choked in their growth, not thicker than bamboos, on our side, and not one on the other!

A good many cocoa-nut trees appear near the banks on both sides, as if planted for making property in the island, and many old mango trees out-top the jungle, as if to shew that the place has been formerly inhabited.

17th.—Rowed until three o'clock from last

night's tide, and anchored in the stream. Dark forests on both sides. Here were congregated many boats, also proceeding to Calcutta, laden with rice, firewood, &c. During the night, I repeatedly heard the barkings of deer, that came to the river to drink at low water. Morning dark and cloudy.

After breakfast, passed an almost thoroughly cleared part, nothing being left of the jungle but a few large bare trees, whose leaves had been destroyed by fire. A little further on, the cultivation was very extensive; and we saw the little village of Milless, surrounded by huge stacks of rice-straw, which has thus an air of comfort and wealth, quite pleasant in such a situation.

To mark more strongly, and to be fully prepared for, the future progress of cultivation and refinement, I should, were the ground mine, erect a gallows on some prominent part of the estate. I cannot help observing, even in these wilds, that luxury is making rapid strides, even amongst the dandees! When I left Calcutta in 1819, only a few of the better (I mean richer) order of the natives used the large, flat, painted chattas, or umbrellas. In purely native courts, these are the emblems of

royalty, and their assumption, a century ago, would have cost the heads of those who used them; but now, small white hand chattas form a staple article at Calcutta, for exportation to every town, great and small, through Bengal: and this morning I perceived the helmsman of a paltry boat, sitting at his ease, enjoying his goor-gooree, with a chatta fixed over his head, to shelter his delicate complexion: thus openly luxuriating in audacious insult to the temperature of his suffering native land!

Passed a large and comfortable pinnace, which was conveying Mr. R. Inglis to Sylhet. Palmettoes, cocoa-nuts, and date-trees, begin to be interspersed with old mangoes and peepuls.

Lugâod for half an hour close to an immense and most ancient burgot-tree, at least a hundred feet high and eighty yards in diameter. The circumference of the stem was ninety feet! It had thrown down innumerable shoots, which now averaged two feet each in diameter, from the height of from fifty to seventy feet; and many hundreds were swinging in the air, from different heights, which will in due time take root, and support the parent boughs, when their increased weight may render assistance

indispensable. In the rear were cultivated lands, and extensive gardens of cocoa-nut and beetel-nut trees.

Hearing the "shrill clarion" of a wild cock within eighty yards, I ventured into the cruel cane brake from which it proceeded, and after creeping through the villanous thorns, for a full quarter of an hour, I found that the cocks and hens were perfectly cognizant of the posture of affairs, and I was compelled to return, extremely heated, and tired from constant stooping, bearing a considerable number of deep scratches into the bargain. The acuteness of their hearing must be very great, and their watchfulness commensurate with their real value in cutlets and grills.

Lugâod at the small village of Moorcha, on the left bank. Mem.,—a cocoa-nut in these latitudes begins to yield fruit after the sixth year, when the stem has risen about six feet above the ground.

As we rowed down with the stream, we saw a Chittagong bullum-boat, from a considerable distance, advancing towards us in full sail, and with considerable speed. Observing that if he continued his course, he would inevitably beat against the sides of our budgerow, I waved

with my hand, and my manjee roared out to the steersman, to give us a wide berth; but, in spite of all my endeavours, I perceived clearly that it was his intention to fall foul of us. At last I ran forward, and directed my bearer to bring up my double-barrelled gun, which was instantly put into my hands, ready loaded with No. 1. shot. I then, when the bullum-boat was within twenty feet of the centre of the budgerow, pointed at the helmsman, and told him, that if the boats touched, I would give him the contents of both barrels. He still advanced, and when within ten feet, luckily for him his boat grounded, and stuck firmly on a bank under water, and thus he escaped being riddled to rags. The passengers, to the amount of more than fifty, all saw me, and cried out to him that I had a gun, but he did not flinch. Had they attacked me, their overpowering numbers would have defied resistance; and probably the whole of my family would have been murdered, and the boat plundered. They were Mussulman sailors, proceeding to Chittagong from Calcutta, and felt themselves unknown in this part of the world.

Since leaving Moorcha, the spring tides have overflowed the banks on both sides to a great

distance, and yet the neighbouring lands seem to have lately yielded a heavy crop of rice, although the water is almost salt.

18th.—Weighed anchor at four, A.M., and rowed until seven, when the ebb failing, we lugâod for breakfast close to the little, pretty village of Banstullah. Land, wild-looking, but chiefly under cultivation. The rivers through which we are now passing seldom exceed ninety yards in breadth, and although all natural, are nearly as regular as canals. The country is intersected with them in every direction, and all permit the passage of boats laden with fire-wood, charcoal, and puddy, to Calcutta. Saw a herd of tame buffaloes grazing, at the distance of 400 yards, being the first I have seen since I entered the lower provinces.

During dinner, passed the small village of Bussempoor, on the left bank, near which the Government of India is good enough to make salt for the consumption of the natives. The spring tides overflow the lands, and cover them with salt water, which, after being strengthened by exposure to the sun, is subsequently still further concentrated by boiling.

Anchored for the night near the village of

Nya Gaong, or New town; that is, a spot cleared by an European.

19th.—At four this morning, the crew repeatedly attempted to weigh the anchor, but unsuccessfully, because it had imbedded itself so thoroughly in the strong clay. After many trials, they desisted, and I then inquired whether they seriously expected the anchor to raise itself! They replied that they must wait until nine o'clock, when it would be high water. Thus we should have lost no less than five hours from their ignorance! But as the ebb was in our favour, and I did not choose to lose a minute, I directed them to attach the budgerow to the cooking-boat, and to take the cable ashore, so as to pull the anchor a little in the contrary direction: this was done, and proved successful; for on trying, on their return to the boat, it was raised in a minute.

Passed the body of a native, lying on the smooth, soft mud on the bank: he had probably been murdered, and then cast into the water.

Passed another bullum-boat, full of passengers, from Calcutta to Chittagong. They pay each from a rupee to a rupee and a quarter for their passage money; and the passage

is generally performed in ten days! Each boat carries from forty to fifty passengers. Tender inquiries were made of our manjee, if he had passed any bullum-boats lately? On both sides a deep, impenetrable jungle of cane-brake and wild, dwarf date-trees, mixed with other trees.

Lugâod during the whole of breakfast time, at the mouth of one of the most beautifully constructed canals in the Soondŭrbunds; both sides sloping equally, and as smooth as if prepared by an amateur in the line. I had my gun heavily loaded ready for any encounter.

I observed, for the first time, that the roots of the trees threw up cylindrical shafts, resembling those of table-knives, about eight inches long, as closely as if they had been planted. Now are to be seen many very elegant, solitary trees, strongly resembling immense willows, rising to the height of seventy feet, and spreading wide in proportion.

A large boat passed us while at anchor, which was pulled by a smaller, containing eight powerful rowers, laden with 30,000 Nurkool mats, for the Calcutta bazars. At a distance, it had the appearance of a floating bungalow.

The different levels of the tide in the larger rivers produce curious effects in the anastomizing streams. For instance, we started with the tide strong in our favour, up a broad stream; but after rowing for less than two hours (instead of six), we were obliged to anchor in the same river, because the tide flowing up the main channel turned from the right into this stream, and met us. But it is likely that this cross creek may also have its smaller streams, the consequences of which must be extreme confusion in the meeting of different currents of water. Anchored soon after sunset, and weighed during the night, still in the midst of dark, dull forests.

20th.—Weighed anchor, and proceeded with the ebb-tide until morning, when we lugâod on the left bank of the Soondurbund. Soon after my arrival, I took my gun, loaded with buckshot, and clambered up the very slippery, stony clay of the bank. I found that a small, narrow embankment ran along the side of the river, and on this I proceeded. The earth on the top of the embankment was not hard and firm, but covered with a dirty, saline efflorescence; and, in consequence, I observed more clearly the tracks of a tigress and her very

small cub, the print of whose paw was not two inches in diameter, as also the hoof of a deer: the prints of all three were quite distinct and fresh; that of the cub shewed the pressure of each toe.

Before me was a large grassy plain; but I did not think it advisable to enter it alone. The ground was so greasy, that I could barely walk, much less run, had it been necessary. The spring tide had covered the bank, and the ditch below the embankment was swarming with crabs. Two species of periwinkles, and a bivalve were scattered about. No large trees were seen in this neighbourhood, owing to the demand for fire-wood at the salt manufactories in the neighbourhood. Near the banks were small huts in villages. A small upper-roomed house appeared, being the first European building seen in the Soondurbunds. It is ornamented with casuarinas.

Passed Humoopootah golahs, where the Government of India manufacture and warehouse salt. A small pucca house stands close to the godowns, which is occupied by the superintendant. Passed a few small villages and patches of jungle, and at last entered a narrow, tortuous stream, about forty yards wide, with

low, thick brushwood, down to the water's edge.

As the boat was sailing smoothly along, my ears were greeted with the pleasant growling of a happy family of tigers, either at play, or at their mid-day meal. . There could be no mistake, the sounds were so clear and distinct, and not above forty yards distant. Two Europeans, young men of about twenty-five, passed in a quick pulling dingee, having an awning over their heads. It struck me that they were most probably deserters from Dum Dum, who had met with some disappointment on their travels, in consequence of which they were returning to the bosom of their regimental canteen.

Arrived at the village of Dhee, on the left bank, where stand the remains of a salt manufactory, formerly worked by a Mr. Toby, who deserted it, I was informed, for one still further in the jungles of the Soondurbunds.

The lord of my household having been dispatched into the village for supplies, returned after an hour's search, with six warranted ducks' eggs,—thus marking the proximity of the capital of British India!

Wakened at two in the morning, to pay the toll for my three boats in Tolly's nullah, at the rate of eight annas per one hundred maunds. One of my boats—that with the baggage—had contrived to fall in the rear. The nullah differs very little, if anything, from the rivers I have been passing, except in the article of iron suspension bridges, of which I had to pass under no less than seven, before I could enter the Hoogly.

Much had I heard, for years, of the beauties of the Soondurbunds; but people praise them from fashion, and parrot-like habits. Tolly's nullah is infinitely more picturesque and pleasing. Instead of dull, monotonous trees, producing nothing but malaria, here are plantations of luscious plantains, stately groves of graceful cocoa-nut trees, and exquisite mangoes; while the mind's eye is regaled with the exhibition of fat ducks and tender goslings, disporting gaily on the golden stream. Elegant ghats abound, surmounted by tasty Grecian landing-places, dedicated by patriotism to cleanliness. At these fashionable places of resort, an observant person may *mentify* the innumerable stories in circulation concerning the seclusion of the native ladies. They are to be seen, of all

shapes and sizes—young and elegant, old and withered; with—ay, or without—their wet drapery, adhering closely to their bodies, in all possible postures—standing, ducking or, diving—close to men of all ages, in *almost* a state of nature.

All the suspension bridges vary in pattern, width, and curve; so it is to be hoped that a standard may be speedily discovered. They are works of real utility to the natives, and are yet untaxed. Tolly's nullah will be soon closed, unless some expense be incurred in removing the accumulating silt. There ought to be some *attempt* at a river police, to prevent the aggregation of boats at particular places, and to hinder the natives from repairing their crafts while traversing it. It was never intended for a dock; but at present it is so used; and the mud being scooped from under the boats, gradually increases the silt, by opposing the current. The pucca ghats also occasionally fall in, and add to the obstruction.

At Tolly Gunge, I found a splendid four-storied house, with clear, extensive grounds. Innumerable canoes, worked each by two men, were freighted by rice in the bulk, and con-

veyed to a gunge or market-place, which we passed on our left.

Passed the Honourable Company's civil and military seminary at Allipore, consisting of numerous and extensive brick, stuccoed buildings, devoted to the mental instruction of perpetual pupils. Ignorant of, and wholly undervaluing the benevolent intentions of government, they sometimes rise on their ushers, and have been even blamable enough to murder their head masters. They manage things differently at Sing Sing and Auburn.

I found, on entering the Hoogly, a suspension bridge, built under the reign of Lord William Bentinck, and that ships of large burden were lying opposite to the cooly bazar; a thing that had never been attempted formerly.

Five or six steamer tugs were also visible, to my great delight. I was the first who proposed the introduction of these highly useful vessels, some twenty-five years ago. I required three; two of very large power, and one smaller. The gentleman intrusted with the commission imported one of nominally eight-horse power, which, after various difficulties, at last found its way to the Ranee

Gunge colliery, where it has met with most profitable and constant employment, in pumping out the water.

The Bishop's College has been built, and adds greatly to the beauty of the reach; but below the fort, very little if any other improvement is visible, and even up so high as Chaudpaul ghat, the appearance of the opposite bank is pretty nearly what it was.

At Chaudpaul ghat, a steam-engine of small power has been erected, for the purpose of supplying the aqueducts of the city with water; and during the day, groups of interesting native females may be seen clustered together, affecting to screen themselves, while bathing and washing their clothes, but as clearly free from all disguise, as if scores of miles beyond the sight of man. Such is native female modesty. *Our* respectable females would scorn to strip themselves of as much of their drapery, unless it were fashionable, and at evening full-dress parties.

The strand road, however, is one of the greatest improvements connected with the times past. It commences from the higher parts of the European city of Calcutta, and runs along the bank of the river, to the dock-

yards at Kidderpore, forming an extensive and beautiful walk or drive, mornings and evenings, and also greatly shortening the road to Garden Reach. But great as was the improvement, the then chief engineer would not allow it to pass the fort, without obstructing it to the utmost of his power. He expressed his fear that the terrific rattling of barouches, whether driven by pairs or four in hand—landaus, landaulettes, britzkas, with or without perches—phaetons of all sorts, high, low, and pony—curricles, tandems, buggies, full, half, or sweep-pannelled, and champignys—would unquestionably, by their irresistible concussion, destroy the ramparts of Fort William! Lord William Bentinck, however, it must be allowed, often thought for himself, and merely answered the argument, by asking how many salutes were fired during a month? "Oh, a great many, my lord!" "Ah! then we need not be afraid of the carriages!" The strand road was built, and the ramparts of Fort William still stand, as an insult to the predictions of the departed Sir Thomas Anbury, K.C.B.

A Grecian ghat has been built at the north end of the old Respondentia walk, within a few

yards of the engine-house, by a Calcutta baboo, which, if it does not rival the Parthenon, will at least commemorate to distant ages, the extraordinary liberality of the Right Honourable Lord William Bentinck, &c. Governor General of India, &c., who has not only graciously allowed a mural marble tablet to be erected on the side facing the road, but has most ingeniously contrived to begin the inscription with his own dearly beloved name and titles, *after which* appears that of the Bungalee patriot whom he allowed to be handed down to grateful and admiring posterity! Ingenious Dutchman! The inscription is as follows :—

> "The Right Honourable Lord William Cavendish Bentinck, G.C.B. and G.C.H. Governor General, &c. &c., with a view to encourage the direction of private munificence to works of public utility, has been pleased to determine, that this ghat, constructed at the expense of Baboo Rajchundur Doss, shall be henceforth called Baboo Rajchundur Doss's Ghat."

Was there ever such liberality? So that it can no longer be doubted, but that we have arrived at that proud epoch in the history of man, in which we are at full liberty to call things by their right and proper names, as

the ghat is pretty generally called "Baboo Rajchundur Doss's Ghat!"

Riding past this ghat one morning, I heard a loud call in my rear, and turning round, discovered that a Bungalee book-hawker wished to enjoy my conversation. He ran up quite breathless, and opening his wallet, took out a little octavo half-bound-in-Russia volume, which he placed in my hands with an air of triumphant satisfaction. Lo, Sâhib! Lo! Take it sir—take it! I took and opened the book, and the first glance displayed an old fat lady in a chair. Its title was, "Wade on Corpulency." I had never before seen, although I had heard of the work. I saw another similar etching, and at last laughed heartily. "What do you want for this? How much?" "You know best, sir." "No, I don't. What is its value?" "You ought to be best judge of that, sir," said the niggur, laughing in my face. I immediately looked round, to ascertain whether he had not been directed by some wag to bring it me as a joke, but I could not see any one.

The whole of the green forming the esplanade of the fort, formerly carefully inclosed by palings, is now cut up into carriage roads,

for the use of the public. Since my arrival, I have read an advertisement from the office of the Postmaster-General, to the effect, that "for the convenience of the public" certain new receiving stations had been instituted in different parts of the city! Hail, therefore, glorious and tax-paying public, now bursting into life and power! Incorporate yourselves, and produce your own lord mayor, to rule within the city, and expend the taxes you raise on yourselves, on the improvement of your own territories. As for a "public," acknowledged merely to be taxed, I say, Phoo!

Those who wish to be further enlightened as to the present state of the capital of British India, are referred to the work of Mr. Stoequeler, and I have no doubt but that he will thoroughly gratify their curiosity. As to myself, the subject is too tempting; but I acknowledge the truth of the remark of a friend learned in the law, that "a person expecting to thrive at Calcutta must be cautious in indulging in the most trivial allusions as to the public or private conduct either of the members of government or its favourites, as every practicable mode of injuring their professional prospects would be

resorted to without mercy." Therefore, *tace* is the Latin for a candlestick.—Amen. Being myself of a timid and retiring disposition, I shall merely say, that both are in the highest degree perfect, and free from spot or blemish!

A SPORTING TOUR

IN

THE KINGDOM OF OUDE.

A SPORTING TOUR,

ETC. ETC.

CHAPTER I.

The merits of yawning—An early breakfast—Starting—A pleasant morning—Close packing—Mohan—Baree—City of the Saint—Consolations of friendship—An interesting rencontre—Charity and gratitude—Kidby's biscuits—Sporting encampment—The party assembled—Khyrabad—Suttees—March to Argaum—Marsh birds—Sporting failures—A pleasant spectacle—Villages of Argaum and Oel—Town of Keeree—Lovely prospect—The Khan of Keeree—Official interview—Native females—Anointing—A modest man—A singing party.

FOUR of the clock, on the morning of the ever-memorable 2nd of March, 1836, had just struck on one of the four dis-synchronous ghurrees, or gongs, of the military station of Lucnow, when I turned in my bed, and yawned—a fact worth

recording; for a yawn—a genuine, unaffected yawn—when alone, is an epoch in my existence. In "company" I often yawn, to save my life.

Thoughts came slowly to their wonted storehouse, though sometimes they were repulsed by musquittoes, and sometimes by sloth. But at last, that excellent organ, which (like the fourteen-and-a-half per cent. compound interest of the quondam Calcutta agent—barring commission, it was all they charged,) never sleepeth, suggested, that instead of indulging in poetical and dreamy idealities, it would be wiser to arise and ascertain whether or not the gram-fed mutton stew, with mushrooms and macaroni, which I had ordered the previous night, was ready for breakfast. Twenty minutes elapsed, and another gong sounded, which convinced me that it must be somewhere near the appointed hour. I jumped up, and dressing hastily, proceeded through the silent and deserted halls of the Palazzo Murreâoni, to awaken the major-domo, the lord chamberlain of the household, and various other indolent domestics, who had been directed to awaken me, ere I lay me down.

With table-cloth in hand, and looks demure, in stalked the illustrious Ghassee Khan buha-

door, followed, at a respectful distance, by the red—by dye—bearded Ram-jan, with the tea apparatus. In a few minutes all was prepared. With the exception of the stew, which was at once hot, rich, and delicious, and the fragrant tea, the repast was cold.

From my youth's glad dawn, have I recollected the then dark saying of an excellent man, that "an hour in the morning was worth two at mid-day." I now agree with him; it is the hour of an early Indian breakfast, before a journey lasting until sunset, over miserable, cross-country, break-bone roads.

After packing up a few Agra oranges, plain and sweet biscuits, with some rich pale ale, Ross, who had the good fortune to accompany me, trundled into my gig, *en route* to Khyrâbâd, said to be fifty miles distant.

Sweet and gentle breathed the silent dawning morn! The soft air was heavily laden with the delicate but luscious odours, stolen from the gay, flower-covered citrons; balmy were the zephyrs, coyly lingering over the pleasant beds of the dewy reseda. In short, it was a very pleasant morning.

Our horse a huge, lumbering bay, thorough-bred, was borrowed; and, according to

the venerated axioms of the enlightened, the whip was mine own!

May our shadows never get less!—but between us we weighed thirty-one stone, horseman's weight, in our shoes! What were, to us, the agitating oscillations of the vile, country-made springs? We were packed like pistons, and laughed heartily at the impotent jolts, which would have quickly ejected equanimity out of the attenuated, "dried neats' tongue" carcasses of the less obese.

We soon reached a huge clay mound, which had been dug out of a spacious, brick-rivetted tank, not quite finished, on whose banks stood a newly-built Jain temple. Adjoining was a *maison de plaisance*, not in the Louis Quatorze, but in the Anglo-Indian, "music of the eye" style; and within a high brick wall, which was pierced by a handsome Indo-Gothic gateway, another temple, most richly decorated with brilliant gilt spires, reared its glittering paynim crest.

These were the outpouring exuberances of the wealthy Seebee Churn, a Hindoo banker, of Lucnow. This is *his* road to a deathless name. What, reader, is yours? Is it more

reasonable, or less pagan? You'll have to answer that question some day.

After the usual cross-road, broad, deep, and muddy-bottomed ditch-meeting adventures, we reached the village of Mohan, where we found my elephant, with a very spacious howda, which we mounted, and presently reached our next dâk, or stage, at Bâree, where we were obliged to dismount rather precipitately, owing to the extreme carelessness of those employed in securing the howda.

From Bâree, we proceeded in Ross's stanhope to Peer-nugger, or the City of the Saint. My friend, whose morning repast had been of the most "genteel" description, was now reduced—incongruous mixture—to the sad necessity of sucking oranges, munching dry biscuit, and sipping ale! When I had recommended the savoury stew, he had refused to listen to the disinterested suggestion—I thought he even sneered. It was mine now to triumph; but I rejected the temptation, and soothed him with the hope of an early dinner. Such are the true consolations of friendship!

While exchanging horses, we reclined at our ease, like the guitar-strumming swains and nymphs in the charming pictures of Watteau,

in the cool shade of an ancient mango grove, on the green and flowery sod.

While discoursing "of this and that," we were both much flattered by observing that a young and not ungraceful Moosulmânee, eyed, I shall not say ogled us, with intense and increasing interest. The truth is, we are both comely persons, in respect of stoutness, at any rate; and had my friend been more graceful, he might have passed for my younger brother.

At the lady's side stood a pale and emaciated child, her only son; and although his vestments were ragged and soiled, his hair close shaven, his scull-cap *rather* greasy, yet the air *distingué*, and the lustre of his brilliant, jetty, but hollow eyes, rivetted our mutual attention. Famine sat enthroned on his gaunt cheek.

I offered him a handful of broken cakes, which he devoured ravenously. Turning then to the youthful, yet deserted and endearing matron, or grass widow—for up to the present hour her condition, or *status*, is still embrowned in mystery—I ventured to ask her if she would deign to partake of our simple meal? Moslim, as she was, and pork-eater as I am,—ay, and

hope to continue,—I was pleased to discover that she did not altogether despise me, but with a placid smile, an outstretched arm, and gloveless hand, she condescended to accept a few—and, alas! how few could I spare her!—of Kidby's biscuits, which I felt it my duty to offer. Perhaps, induced by Ross's example and by my mild persuasions, she might have so far conquered her prejudices as to have tasted our ale; but I felt loath to trifle with her religious principles, which were evidently Catholic, or add to those cruel temptations and poignant trials, to which a grinding and bitter poverty subj[illegible] its skinny victims.

Modesty had hitherto prevented them from soliciting our charity; but on perceiving that our soft hearts melted at the sight of misery, two thin, peculiarly dog-ribbed children, craved our alms. I called them to me, and gave them the small remainder of my store—as was poetically just,—the larger portion to the thinner party.

They paid me with grateful smiles,—for they had no smaller change,—and I was happy!

After this simple and unadorned relation, I have reason to hope that the benevolently disposed will seldom or never travel dâk, with-

out a sufficient supply of the delicious biscuits of the all-black-baker-transcending Kidby, the Le Mann of the East. It has been maliciously whispered about that I am his sleeping partner; but I shall now and ever indignantly deny the insidious calumny.

We again sprang into our stanhope, and after crossing fat, green-scummed pools, leaping low mud walls, tugging through dark ditches, trembling on ruined bridges, scratching over quickset hedges, at five in the afternoon, after emerging from the narrow lanes, mountainous dunghills, and crowded markets of the city of Khyrâbâd, we were delighted to find ourselves on the encamping mâidâwn of our hospitable entertainers.

The said encampment consisted of three double-poled and four single-poled tents, with sundry pauls for the body guard, servants, &c. Nor was there wanting a "lengthy" kunnât, for a noble *batterie de cuisine*, with a *chéf* and suitable establishments of indigenous *artistes*. The plain was embellished by about twenty saddle and buggy horses, a perfect sea of camels, and fourteen elephants, which were gradually increased to thirty-two. All was life and bustle: guns cleaning, fowls picking,

sheep skinning, camels gurgling, horses neighing, milch cows lowing, and bullets casting.

The party consisted of Mrs., Miss, and Brigadier Churchill, Colonel Arnold, Major Cureton, Lieut. Waugh, Dr. Ross, of her Majesty's 16th Lancers, and the writer of these amiable records.

Khyrabad, or the abode of charity, is a straggling town, containing, perhaps, five or even six thousand inhabitants, and perhaps twice, or half, that number; for mine is but a mere guess, and good information on this point no native can give. It is built of mud, and bears that stamp of decay which distinguishes all Indian cities.

Close to the brigadier's sleeping tent, stood several cupola-covered tombs; marking spots, where feeble, helpless women had either in grief committed suicide, or been murderously burnt to ashes as suttees.

March 3rd.—After indulging in a cup of delicious hot coffee, the ladies and gentlemen mounted on horseback, and commenced their march to Argaum, distant eighteen miles. Long as it was, our route was greatly lengthened, not only by the winding of the road, but by its repeatedly bringing us to the skirts

of extensive fields of ripening corn, through which, as the natives had ploughed over the track, we were compelled to proceed. Fortunately the crop was too far advanced to receive much injury.

We reached Argaum in good time, and with hearty appetites, to enjoy a capital breakfast. The country through which we passed was spotted by numerous marshes, of all sizes, probably united during the rains, and I should therefore believe that the whole tract must be exceedingly unhealthy, if not deadly to foreigners. These marshes were swarming with the white curlew, herons, ibis, bittern, flocks of ducks, widgeons, mallard, and other web-footed birds; and their sedgy borders afforded capital shelter to the delicious snipe, now in huge personal perfection.

After breakfast the sportsmen sallied out, in the fond hope of increasing the *deliciæ* or *agremens* of the second course; but all, save Waugh, returned disconsolate and sad. The ducks were inexorably unapproachable. Waugh had, indeed, the good fortune to merit and obtain our gratitude, by contributing a noble dish of snipes. People may, and I have been told actually do, differ—though it can hardly

be worth their while—in their estimates of the talents and skill of pickpockets, polemics, poets, porters, and prize-fighters; but when the piquant trail is on their forks, I am of opinion, that there are but few who would be foolish enough to despise, or so silly as to attempt to depreciate, the skill of the sportsman who has regaled them.

There are few spectacles more beautiful than the evidences of rapture so legibly written in the eyes of the man who has just sunk back in his elbow-chair, after having assisted in removing his glasses from the well-spread table-cloth, and finds the Burgundy at his elbow. There he sits; look at him! Is that pleasant smile the child of envy, malice, and uncharitableness? The supposition is absurd! It is the rich beam of gratitude for what has just passed, and for what is immediately to come. What though, in the lull of the bottle's circulation, he should have forgotten to push it far enough to his left! Should he even, in the calm abstraction of the moment, have replenished his glass *à la Scurry*,* I see no

* Serjeant Scurry, of H.M. 16th Lancers, was once complained of by his comrades, for not pushing his claret to his left, after filling his glass.

reason why it should be attributed either to a wilful neglect of his duty to his neighbours, or to a selfish attempt to increase his own enjoyment at the expense of others. At table, the happiness of one is that of all; we should learn to be charitable. So much for personal reminiscences; now to statistics.

Argaum is a populous village, placed on the top of a low range of sand hills, which are gradually hardening into kunkur. For the more convenient inhalation of the miasmatic luxuries of fever and ague, at their foot lies a putrid marsh. On the march we saw large fields of the urhur plant, completely leafless and dead, having been destroyed by the severe frosts. Close to our camp were two clear lakes, swarming with fishes, and covered with water-fowl, where bathing may be enjoyed in perfection. From the aridity of the season, and the absence of the usual wintry showers, the barley crops, which are never irrigated, were extremely short and scanty; while, on the other hand, we observed thousands of acres of the richest golden wheat.

March 4th.—After a very pleasant ride of ten miles, passing through the populous and busy village of Oel, the granary of these parts,

we reached the town of Keeree. A lovelier land was never seen! was the exclamation of all—so green, so well wooded, and undulating; with a north wind, so cool and invigorating. Keeree being the last town of any size that could afford to supply us with the grain requisite for our numerous followers, I dispatched the havildar of the guard, in full uniform, with my most polite compliments to the chief of the city, requiring his immediate presence on business. In an hour or two, for no doubt he had to doff his dirty, and put on his clean clothes, the aumil, or native collector's man of business, Askur Alee Khan, a young man of two or three-and-twenty, plainly, but respectably attired, accompanied by two cunning, elderly Hindoos, in the capacity of bear leaders, attended by a long train of armed followers, sabre in hand, entered our encampment; the Khan Sahib having had the good sense to dismount from the back of his well-fed tattoo a hundred yards off.

After we had each touched his nuzzur of five rupees, and returned his most respectful salute, I explained, that we required to be supplied with a set of travelling bunneas, or

grain-sellers, who should be allowed a handsome profit during their attendance on our excursion. After a long conversation, in which he repeatedly assured me of his anxiety and willingness to afford every assistance, he explained that no grain could be obtained, nor the quantity of atta, or coarse flour, that was required, without his procuring help from the neighbouring villages, particularly Oel; and that if a few sepoys were granted, for the purpose of shewing that the requisition proceeded from the brigadier, everything that was procurable should be supplied, and that the bunneas should be placed at our disposal before night.

During the discussion, we were surrounded by the Moosulman servants of the party, each anxious to have a hit at the trembling functionary; and such gentle phrases as "Joot bât," (that's a lie)—"Sub fraib ka bât," (all deception)—"Hum log bhee thora buhoot jante hyn," (we know a trick or two ourselves) —were continually issuing from their mouths. It was easy to see that poor Askur Alee was perfectly frightened, and appealed most earnestly to these very great men for their mercy,

while "Maum Bux," Arnold's factotum, was translating his Hindoostanee, and rapidly improvising for his master's ear. From his official situation, being himself particularly well versed in the usual indigenous improprieties, he came to the point, with the least possible delay or circumlocution. But believing—what proved to be really the case—that the man could be trusted, to prevent his receiving further vexation, I took him on one side, and told him that as I was a quiet, simple man, who did not choose to give trouble, and was *besides* the holder of a stout perwanneh, or order, from the "Protector of the World," authorising me to call on him, I had only to caution him that he must do his best—which he promised. He redeemed his word by his conduct in procuring us bunneas, with their carriage, and a supply of grain that night, and by immediately despatching people to collect all the ferry boats, to enable us to cross the river Chowka the following day.

While we were sitting all round the table, writing letters to be sent by the shutur suwar, or camel dâk, a cluster of delicate and interesting females, who had been busily employed in converting a huge heap of cow-dung into

cakes, simultaneously rising from their neat employ,

> To their harp they sang
> Soft amorous ditties, and in dance came on,

in due procession; and as it was the merry month of Phâgoon, and the termination of the Indian Saturnalia, or Feast of the Hôly, insisted on having the honour of anointing our foreheads with rank buffalo ghee! Here was a trial! Beaux of Almacks! *quoi faire?* After due explanation, with dignified resolution, Ross was the first to submit his manly brow to the fair, or *rather* brown, dispenser of the buttery blessings of Spring; and he was honoured with a gracious dab. I courted next the greasy meed. Cureton, smiling, yielded to the influence of the generous nymph. Waugh was absent, and fancy painted him forestalling the dairy-maids with softer and dearer incense; while Churchill—shame, shame on the chivalry of the day!—Churchill, albeit unused to the retiring mood—Churchill, the Waterloo man, hastily retreated behind an impromptu abbatis of chairs, and holding up one in his hands before his face, as a traverse, in the very front of his courteous enemy, seemed perfectly petrified at her audacity!

In a few minutes she retreated, laughing and victorious, and backed by her sister nymphs, returned for a present of five rupees. Five seems a magical number in India. Anything can be had for five rupees.

In the evening a long string of gentle, but dirty swains and mud-coloured damsels, attended by a band of country music, visited our camp, and sang Hôlee songs, on speculation, for a full hour, "by Shrewsbury clock." (What a pleasing freshness there is in the quotation!) When they were dismissed, we mounted our elephants, and paraded through the city, finding it a miserable heap of old walls, dunghills, and *maisonettes en pisé.*

During the hours of darkness we rested soundly, having secured a guard of twenty-five pâssees, or professed thieves, who were thus put on honour. There was a small pucka brick tank close to our tents, swarming with fish, from which we contrived to get a curry for dinner.

CHAPTER II.

Road to Nurhur—Pleasant prospect—An Indian east wind—A plain question—Case of leprosy—Character of the country—Singing ladies—Native gratitude—A freebôoting village—Inundations—March to Nighassun—Peculiar soil—Grove of mangoes—Graft by approach—A tiger killed—Bread sauce!—Panegyric on gastronomy—A rajpoot—A detour through the jungle—Contrast of climate—A native sportsman—Native ladies—Head quarters of Malaria—Beating the jungle—Home to dinner—A tiger-cat killed—Hog-deer soup.

March 5th.—The party marched towards Nurhur, at early dawn, over a road bordered by a complete sheet of cultivation. About sunrise we crossed a small river, called the Gân, whose breadth was about thirty yards, and

depth a foot; after which, traversing an extensive plain, interspersed with a few mango topes, about eight in the morning we reached the Chowka nuddee, or river, which was full 200 yards wide, and about ten or twelve feet in depth.

The prospect here was truly enchanting, for on the east bank stood our breakfast tent! As the boats on our arrival had been discharging their cargoes on the other side, we were obliged to wait till they returned. We found them to consist of two very long canoes, fastened together, and covered with a platform. These boats were, however, so insufficient for a rapid conveyance of our baggage, that it was with difficulty transported before night.

After a competent breakfast, we continued our journey to Nurhur, in buggies, on horseback, and on elephants. The day had been cruelly distinguished by an east wind, and a misty bank lowered heavily over the forest, which was not yet visible. Who is he that can stand an Indian east wind?

I mounted an elephant, accompanied by Mr. Thomas Brown, a youth rising seventeen, who very speedily discovered the irksomeness

of silence, and gently broke the ice—for I am naturally of a taciturn temper—by asking, in a simple, quiet way, "I say, Sir, can you play on the Jews' harp?" Oh, Handel and Haydn! Mozart and Rossini! was there ever such a cruel home thrust? Escape was impossible! So I said, "No, Tom, I cannot!"

While on my elephant, I was consulted by a withered old woman of seventy, about the health of her "lurka," or boy, as she called her son, a man of fifty, suffering under the frightful ravages of leprosy. His days were numbered. His toes had entirely disappeared.

The country through which we passed was very low, and covered by numerous marshes. We encamped in a mango orchard, on the skirts of the village, ornamented with divers fat, rank, green pools, and luscious dung-hills, diffusing their fragrance far and wide. From the greenness of the sod, a person might be induced to believe himself in Bengal; but a glance at the numerous mango trees, and extensive fields of chunna, or grain, completely destroyed by the recent severe frosts, would demonstrate that he was in a much higher latitude. The crops of corn were perfectly choked with a rank undergrowth of clover, exhaling a most

delightful scent, and the beautiful little plant resembling the English "forget-me-not." We also saw many plants of the wild black oat, both in the barley and wheat.

Whilst lying in the shade on my charpâee, I was addressed by a covey of Brij-bassin ladies, who volunteered to sing us Hôlee songs; and being fatigued, to get rid of them, I gave them, with an air of magnificent patronage, a silver four anna piece, which is pretty nearly worth sixpence sterling! One of the ladies advanced to receive it, with rapturous gratitude, invoking on my bounteous head all the choice blessings of heaven,—wealth, long life, children, honour, dominion, &c.; but when she had the Lilliputian coin in her hand, and observed me laughing, she exclaimed, "Wa! wa! how much meetâee, or sweetmeats, can we get for this?" This is another rich specimen of native gratitude for you! For four annas, she might have purchased about nine pounds' weight of goor, or coarse sugar; enough, one would think, to have sickened a pulke of Cossacks.

The village having a peculiar character for "transferring property without colour of law," we protected ourselves by hiring a guard of pâssees, and escaped untouched.

Observing symptoms of recent inundation, I found on inquiry, that the river Gâgur, or Gogra, over which we must pass to-morrow, covers the surrounding country three feet deep, during the rains; at which period the communication of the village, as in Bengal, is carried on by boats sailing through it in all directions.

March 6th.—A little before sunrise, and after a cup of coffee, we commenced our march to Nighassun, about ten or twelve miles distant. After riding two miles, we forded the river Gâgur with ease, the water being less than a foot deep, and at present confined between banks about fifteen feet high. No signs of pebbles, or even coarse sand, as I had expected. The soil over which we passed consisted of a fat red loam, most admirably adapted for raising the grains peculiar to India, in the highest perfection, but requiring to be laboriously hoed, as no Hindoostanee plough could enter it, such was its tenacity. The hoe used is a very heavy iron one, with a handle four feet long; and labourers were busy in all directions, preparing the ground for the ensuing rainy-season crop of joâr.

I was surprised to see the cattle in such

miserable condition, and found numerous unskinned carcasses rotting around, and close to every village.

Our encampment was placed in a very cool, shady grove of mangoes, in clumps, for a single tree was not to be found. I have been long puzzled to ascertain the native reason for planting so many young trees in the same hole; four and five are usual, but I have counted not less than nine. I am inclined to believe, although the practice militates against our notions of horticulture, that, to a certain extent, say three or four, it is perfectly correct. The mango tree does not bear its fruit with any regularity, and a fair crop is not obtained in less than three or four years. Hence, if that number of trees be planted together, the chances are, that one of them may annually bear. Some people assert, that the same tree produces various species of fruit, but this is a mere fable, and proceeds from their ignorance of the natural graft by approach.

After a good breakfast, which was dispatched a little quicker than usual, four gentlemen proceeded on their elephants, without any previous information, in search of a tiger; and the brigadier was so confident of success, that

he offered to bet fifty gold mohurs to one, that a tiger should be brought home—and he won it. In the evening the party returned with the body of a well-fed tigress, a hog-deer, (devoted to cutlets and soup,) a heap of black partridges, and chuckore.

We dressed and sat down to dinner. The *rotis* had disappeared; wine had been drunk all round; but instead of the lively chat, there arose a dull expectant hum. It was evident that the feelings of the party were highly excited. Eyes were constantly directed to the door of the tent, facing the *batterie de cuisine*, where it was well known that I had been exercising my skill. At last, when patience was nearly exhausted, the servants, with unusual stateliness and solemnity of manner, bore in a huge saucepan, in which I had carefully prepared a rich bread sauce. The conversation wholly ceased—the partridges were rapidly dismembered. "Shall I send you any of the sauce?"—"Thank you, most certainly!" It was liberally dispensed to all; and, as I had expected, one joyous universal burst of delight and surprise resounded through the dark grove. They felt that they were sitting in the presence of a master mind. "Capital!

most capital! Never in England ate anything half so delicious! Superb! superb, indeed!" In fact it was—what in the Scotch kirk they designate—"a harmonious call!" My spirit was soothed: it was clear that my talent had not been wasted on insensates. Happy, thrice happy is he, who can thus command the sincere praise, by increasing the honest enjoyments of his fellow-creatures!

Amongst a certain class of people, I have been told that gastronomy is despised. But, good souls, do they love their potatoes raw; their mutton chops smoked and tough; their cutlets stringy; their soups tasteless and cold; their beefsteaks thin, greasy, and cindered? No—no! the deuce a bit. They relish everything well dressed and delicious; yet thinking to blind the world by hypocrisy, they pretend that it is low and sensual to care for such things! Gentle reader, may you never be unawares surprised into the company of such knaves! Let your hearts expand, and your tongue delight, in showing how gloriously the earth is decked with goodly fruits of various flavours; how splendidly it is ornamented with gorgeous flowers of every hue and fragrance. Nature is all joyous, and inciting to

joy. Bleak and barren indeed must that spot be, where the eye of a sound-hearted and skilful gastronomist cannot discover matter for thankfulness! For him does sad and solitary Ascension gather together her luscious and indescribable turtle; for him the dark rocks and arid plains of the dry Deccan produce their purple grapes, and cunning, but goodly bustard; for him burning Bundlecund its wonderful rock pigeon, and ortolan inimitable; the Jumna, most ancient of rivers, its large rich kâlâ banse, and tasty crabs; for him yields the lone and marshy teraee her elegant florican; the mighty Gunga its melting mâhâ-seer; the Goomtee its exquisite mullet. And shall he not eat and delight in her fruits? shall he not revel in her flowers? Shall he not gratefully and sedulously prepare the bounteous gifts, so as to obtain the highest possible regale?

Anything the raw-skate worshippers may say to the contrary notwithstanding, I am no advocate for excess, but for temperate social enjoyment. Let the ass eat its thistles, and the swallow its flies, *au naturel;* you and I, reader, know better.

The tiger slayers were accompanied on their

return by one Sam Lal, by birth a Chutree, or Rajpoot, by profession a Zemindar, and by inclination a sycophant and skikaree. He appeared, to pay his respects to the ladies after dinner, simply habited in a dirty quilted cotton surtout, and bearing a sabre;—of a muscular figure, with a very dark complexion, and about forty years of age.

March 7th.—Marched through a belt of the forest, to the village of Singhâée, distant only six miles, having first to cross a small stream, and subsequently to ford the river Surjoo. Our encampment was in a dark grove, a quarter of a mile to the north-east of the village, which consisted of low huts of straw, supported on posts. Ross and myself, tempted by the jungle fowls and peacocks, made a considerable *detour*, and saw winged game in great abundance; but what with its wildness, the closeness of the cover, and the breadth of the lakes, candour compels me to acknowledge, that we brought nothing but disappointment home with us.

Had an Englishman, fresh from England, seen the forest from a distance, he would have been astonished. While the mildness of the air, the green richness of the turf, and the gay singing of the soaring lark, would have

reminded him of a lovely summer, the dreary appearance of the leafless trees would have confounded him. To make the contrast more forcible, here and there stood a lofty evergreen. The deciduous trees were just budding into life, after their unusually protracted winter. The edges of the woods are generally strongly marked, either by the steep banks of the water-courses of the rains, or by stagnant marshes, covered with rank weeds, which they have left.

After breakfast, on the erroneous information of Sam Lal, we proceeded to a tiger cover, as coolly as in England one would mount his hack or hunter for the gorse cover. Sam Lal was enthroned on a high elephant, in a green painted howdah; and with the low cunning of his nation and species, he took us a roundabout, through a long stripe of marsh, from which we obtained black partridge and snipe in abundance, to his own village of Aurungâbâd; too delighted at the opportunity of shewing his wondering and envious ryots how highly he was valued by the English. Triumph sat on his brow, swelled out his nostrils, and sparkled in his eyes, when his aged father, attended by a crowd of natives, tottered for-

ward to present his nuzzur to the brigadier. Buonaparte, on his triumphal entry into Milan, (as Churchill observed) was much less elated than Sam with his own generalship.

Soon after, while the levee was still crowded, Mrs. Sam Lal, with a long train of very indifferently clean females, bearing large brazen vessels full of milk on their heads, advanced singing a song of praises, after the manner of the maids and matrons of early Greece, for anything I know to the contrary. To my great disappointment, their melodious voices were abruptly silenced, and they returned, I imagine, rather disgusted with the unexpected and unmerited repulse.

We continued our route to the forest, over an extensive plain, seeing here and there flocks of peacocks cross our path, and had several distant shots at hog-deer. At last, re-entering the forest, we descended a steep bank, and found ourselves in a horrid marsh, covered by the gigantic nurkool, or hollow reed, which grew to the height of more than twelve feet above the water, through which the smaller elephants waded with great difficulty; and, in fact, the sportsmen participated in the labour, which, owing to the sticking of the elephants'

feet in the rich mud below, was exceedingly severe. In these head quarters of malaria we remained a full hour, and were mortified at seeing nothing but a few hog-deer, at which, although they rushed out in a most tempting manner, under our very noses, we were not at liberty to fire, lest we should frighten away the expected tigers.

Thoroughly exhausted, as well as disappointed, we at last saw our error, left the marsh, and proceeded to its northern extremity, where the surput grass grew about eight feet high, over a dry bottom. This we beat, crossed and re-crossed, unsuccessfully, till at last we turned our views to the larder, and immediately secured two hog-deer, and a number of black partridges. We also wounded a large hog, who soon screened himself in the grass, and ultimately escaped.

As it was now five o'clock, and we always dined, when we could, at six, I was sent home with the despatches announcing our approaching return; an office which I executed entirely to the satisfaction of the party, as, at the second course, the bread-sauce was as delicious as ever.

On returning by the same marsh which

had been beaten in the morning, Waugh killed a very fine tiger-cat, weighing about thirty pounds.

At dinner, under my previous instructions, we found the fore-quarters of yesterday's hog-deer converted into a rich and most delicious soup. The Khansaman had the impiety, of his own accord, to prepare the hind-quarters by pounding the meat, then mixing it with an equal portion of flour, frying the compound, and serving it up in a tasteless gravy—as cutlets! He a Khansaman, indeed!

> ——"A beast that wants discourse of reason,
> Would have——"

cooked better. I endeavoured to conceal the anger I felt, by recommending the "foul, unnatural" dish to the unemployed; but they had seen me dismiss my plate unemptied. Need I say more?

CHAPTER III.

Beating for tigers—Forest of sissoos—Mint julep in India—Desecration—Adjuration to Prince Metternich—Johannisberger—A pathetic appeal—More beating for tigers—A buffalo—Gigantic boa constrictors—An immense tigress killed—Tame and wild elephants—Jungle fowl—Native energies—Cultivation of the potato—Hog-deer cutlets—Sissbâree—News of game—Flamicans—Dangerous work—Boar shooting—A sweeper—Skilful anatomist—A tigress and cubs—Wild guava-tree—Charge of a tigress on a tame elephant—Snipes and jungle fowl—An invitation to sport—Beautiful night scene—Loss of revenue—Sam Lal, &c.

March 8th.—Breakfasted at eleven, mounted our elephants, and wandered unsuccessfully through marshes, woods, plains, and tangled dales, until five in the evening. Before we started, a very short, athletic man, a cow-herd

by profession, came forward, stating that he would lead us to a tiger, that had recently killed a buffalo. We followed him with pleasure, and by so doing grievously excited the jealousy of Sam Lal, who eyed him with the most malignant scowl. While near the banks of the Mohan nuddee, the gwala, on being taunted with his want of success, descended from his elephant, and begging us to wait a little, under the shade of some tall sissoos, run boldly forward, though only armed with a simple lâtee, or staff, to explore a neat little copse on its edge.

Passed through a lovely forest of sissoos, whose tender and beautiful light green leaves had just burst into existence. Few trees of a large size were to be seen. Within it were several large enclosures, with walls of straw ten or twelve feet high, built to protect the cattle, that graze here during the rains, from tigers. There was abundance of proof that a most unusual mortality had ravaged the herds, carcasses being strewed all round. The turf of our encampment was liberally enriched with wild mint, gânja, and other odorous shrubs; and in the opinion of the majority—I blush to acknowledge it—they were not misapplied

in desecrating a mixture of a couple of bottles of hock, and one of sherry, sweetened with sugar. This big-baby stuff was handed round, and vastly lauded during dinner. I drank, 'tis true, but merely to execrate.

I beg here to record my solemn protest against all such villanous compositions, which sap the very vitals of a cultivated Gourmetrie. Bethink you, calmly and seriously — was Hock, the choice glory of the sunny Rhine, transported with care from its native banks, —was Hock, the pride of the intelligent gourmet, by suffering an "*un*holy alliance," as if deficient in flavour, with mint, gânja, and sugar, made to be degraded to a loathsome equality with the vile muddy beer, or the still more odious terebinthic gin of England? Fie—fie! one blushes at the very idea, which is no less degrading to the palates, than repugnant to the reason. Sherry is, I am told, a noble dram—that was the word used—for the cold, dull, unfortunate, and unexcitable; and far be it from me to lessen the enjoyment of such people, by fulminating my censures at their various modes of reducing its potency, or disguising its flavour, by water, sugar, or mint. No—I respect their misery!

They may steep cigars in it afterwards, for all I care. But Metternich—Prince Metternich! if thou hast, indeed, bowels of humanity and tuns of Johannisberger, as I hear and hope thou hast, quickly send me a few, a very few, hundred dozen! Most noble Prince! most amiable cellarman! with thy hock shall I thee worship, on rock, marsh, mountain, and valley! "List, oh list, if ever thou did'st thy dear father love!" Send me Johannisberger. Thy vineyard on the blessed Rhine, with its venerable antique chateau, has for years daily regaled my still insatiate eye; but, alas! how little have I yet enjoyed of its goodly produce! What are the palled longings of gorged kings and despotic emperors, to the harrowing desires of a poor exile? Oh! that thy heart were as soft as thy wines are said to be delicious! Yet, another word. Do nothing, generous Prince, by halves. Let the vintage be of your best at all events! and moreover, preserve the peace of Europe, in order that we may continue to procure a little genuine claret!

(*Aside.*) He can never withstand this eloquent appeal! I feel assured already, that the wine's in my cellar.

After a breakfast on cold partridges, we went in search of tigers, said to have been marked down last night, by some of Sam Lal's emissariat cow-herds. At the distance of between four or five miles from camp, we waded through a long deep marsh, covered with nurkool. The forest trees surrounding it were covered by natives, anxious to see the expected battle. The skull of a buffalo, which had been killed and fairly eaten three days before, was placed in the fork of a tree for our inspection. We beat and re-beat the tiresome marsh, *ad nauseam*, and then proceeded in search of another, three or four miles distant.

We all sat down listless and dull in our howdahs, some reading papers, others letters, or Penny Magazines, being forbidden to fire. Hot and weary, we were wading through successive marshes, when I was suddenly roused by the cry of alarm from my mahout, and starting up with my rifle, saw,

> of serpent kind,
> Wondrous in length and corpulence,

a labyrinth of huge coiled-up boa constrictors, or pythons, sound asleep, floating on a bed of crushed nurkool, or reed, the least of them

twenty feet long, and two feet in circumference. A more beautiful natural mosaic cannot be imagined; they appeared, from being wet, as if recently varnished. Perhaps they were from twenty to thirty in number, and occupied a spot of about twenty feet square.

No sooner did the dreadful glistening reptiles hear the click of my rifle, and feel its ball, than they shot forth with all their vigour, and diving, disappeared in an instant under the matted roots of the tall nurkool, and although I tried, I could not get another glimpse. Some one behind, I believe Cureton, also favoured them with a couple of barrels.

Wholly dispirited, we set our faces homeward, in utter despair, firing at everything that flew or fluttered; until, in one of the most unlikely spots, we flushed a large tigress at the distance of about three hundred yards. In an instant she received a noble and seemingly well-directed volley, for she turned round to bark, grunt, and snarl, which is usual with these animals when wounded. We crowded all sail, and were soon within two hundred yards, and then she appeared so exhausted, either from fat or wounds, that she could barely walk, and a few more shots placed

her speedily *hors de combat.* She behaved very gallantly; for on our near approach, she repeatedly tried "to steam up" a charge, but as often fell. The war-whoop was sounded, hock was secured, and twelve coolies in a few minutes raised and secured her on a spare pad.

No sooner had we effected this pleasant and unexpected transfer, than the natives, who had followed us on our homeward path, descended from the trees surrounding the marsh, and ran to acquaint us, that when we were busy dispatching the female, a huge male had passed them, galloping at full speed towards the cover we had first fruitlessly beaten in the morning.

For mine own part, feeling the heat very great, and my gills looking, as my friends kindly assured me, rather pinkish, I thought it right to return direct to our encampment; but the rest of the party, although considerably knocked up—I conjecture from the effects of the tickle-palate mixture of the preceding dinner—determined to pursue the gentleman in the striped waistcoat, who had deserted his tender and indulgent wife. After a long, patient, but fruitless search, they returned in good time to dinner.

Besides black partridges, we killed two purple

gallinules, which may be found occasionally in flocks of twenty or thirty in the middle of the marshes, and found them remarkably good eating. Game was particularly scarce, but we saw a boar of most enormous dimensions.

During the night, our tame elephants were visited by a wild one, which every night does infinite damage to the ripening crops; but no attempt, as we could ascertain, had been made to kill or catch it. So much for native energies.

Sam Lal, in confidence of favour, petitioned the brigadier, in my presence, for four potatoes: happening also to be present when he went to the *batterie de cuisine* to receive them, I saw him demand and take twenty—a proof that the vegetable meets with his approbation. Strange that, with a soil so rich, cheap, and eminently suited to their cultivation, these miserable people have not even made an attempt to introduce the potatoe in these wild forests, as a resource against famine.

The mahouts walked off with two of our largest hog-deer, and thus defrauded us of two most delicate dishes. I may here observe, in gastronomic confidence, that hog-deer cutlets are most delicious when carefully and scienti-

fically prepared, as, by my valuable instructions, they this day were.

March 10th.—Marched to Sissbâree, a distance of only eight miles, and encamped as usual. One of the saeeses, leading a saddle-horse through the forest, saw a tiger cross his path, about fifty yards a-head, but "made no sign," although we were within easy hail. During the morning, a dense mist was suspended over the forest, now surrounding us in all directions. We passed a great number of the carcasses of buffaloes and oxen. The loss of cattle seems to have been immense; the natives say a full fourth.

After breakfast, according to promise, Sam Lal returned, as usual, with "pucca khubur," or certain intelligence of game; so we saddled, and went out rejoicing. After a mile's anxious trudging, we flushed our first florican. The keen sportsmen dismounted from their elephants to follow him, but returned unsuccessful to their howdahs. Considering the difference between the value of a man and a florican, such conduct does not seem to merit a softer adjective than foolish. There they walked, with shot in their barrels, amongst stiff burnt grass, liable to the sudden irruption of tigers, from some beautiful cover, within pistol-shot on both sides.

Arnold raised and instantly shot an enormous black boar. I quickly dismounted, and, with Tom's assistance, curtailed him of his fair proportions. In this operation, I flatter myself that I proceeded in a manner which, had he seen me at my tools, would have made Sir Astley Cooper proud of his pupil.

While calling out lustily for assistance, a tall, black spirit advanced, with a gracious smirk, and a "Hum kurenge, sahib"—We shall do it, sirs! "You?" said I—"who are you?" "I am a sweeper!"

This gentleman, "smit with the sacred love of—" pork, had been allowed to mount an elephant, and "followed to the field his warlike lord."

Of course, from the skilful anatomist, I instantly became the indignant gentleman, and desired my new friend to shape his course to camp without any delay. He had the good sense to perceive that I was in earnest, and therefore decamped instanter. By my unremitting exertions, a spare elephant was called up to carry our noble game; but all the mahouts in turn endeavoured to avoid the dreadful contamination, while, with pliant heels, they twisted their huge beasts round all the points

of the compass, in the hope that I would believe that the elephants were frightened. But after much foolish opposition, and waste of virtuous indignation, they were at last compelled to submit.

The animal was jet black, with a very thick coat of bristle, and fine prominent tusks, in the highest order. On his ribs, he bore the marks of the recent scratch from a tiger's claw.

Proceeding, we traversed the bed of an almost dried-up stream, drawing out innumerable spotted deer of all ages; but having received intelligence of a tigress, and two new-born cubs, we were less averse to their escape. In this beat we were wholly unsuccessful, and we left it for a large nurkool-covered marsh; and after pounding it well, found nothing but innumerable deer, painted and solitary snipes.

Turning campwards, we raised a fine drove of pigs, great and small, but without eventual benefit to the larder. Found several trees, covered with the coloquintida gourd, and afterwards, what I had not hitherto seen in India, viz., the wild guava-tree, with its ripened fruit, which, both in interior and exterior conformation, exactly resembled the cultivated species.

It was, however, more fibrous, inodorous, and tasteless, and its seeds were black.

I returned home alone. Soon after we parted company, in the very field in which they had been chasing the florican, close to the spot where the boar had fallen, the hunters killed their third tigress, within a mile, and in sight of camp. She made a desperate charge at the brigadier's elephant, who received her on his tusks, without flinching; but the tigress was too much wounded to climb up into the howdah. This part of the country swarms with hog-deer, spotted deer, and a few antelopes; and in one of the marshes we waded this morning, the flight of snipes, common, painted, and solitary, from their numbers, resembled that of paroquets.

Waugh shot a jungle cock with ball; and in black partridges, widgeon, and plovers, contributed greatly to our secondary comforts. In the forest, during the stagnation of the air, the heat was quite insupportable. While passing through it, under a huge banian, we found an encampment of bunjârâs, who were there stationed for the purpose of selling a coarse dirty salt to the surrounding villages, which they had probably smuggled from the Doâb. One of

the men, who had been seized with fever, was lying down on the damp ground, fifty yards from their grass tents, covered with the dirtiest of rags.

While at dinner, two exceedingly dirty ambassadors-extraordinary, pâssees, armed with bows and arrows, demanded special audience, and produced their credentials from Raja Rutton Sing, in the shape of a Persian note, on brown paper. This, however, was found to contain a very proper and respectful address to the unknown sporting noblemen, requesting the honour of their company to a spot abounding in tigers, of which he had already shot four.

After serious deliberation in solemn conclave, it was settled that our dignity would be compromised by too direct or speedy compliance, and that we should, therefore, appoint a meeting at an equidistant point in a few days. A letter to this effect, in the choicest Persian, the composition of our secretary in the political department, was despatched by the pâssees, and we continued until the proper hour drinking our cool claret.

March 11th.—Traversed the jungle, accompanied by the ladies in their howdahs, and in due time reached our ground at Hulna-boj, the

etymology of which compound may be settled at their leisure by the Royal Asiatic Society.* The camp was pitched in the wild forest, on the margin of the rapid Mohun nuddee, now reduced to the breadth of eighty yards, and fordable. We crossed numerous tracks of wild elephants during our march, and raised one solitary florican, who kept carefully out of mischief, although several gentlemen dismounted to court his better acquaintance.

At breakfast, the khansaman presented us with a huge platter of pork chops, from the ribs of yesterday's boar; but truth compels me to state, that although edible, they were anything but tempting. There was not a vestige of fat, but all strong muscle; and so, like the generous nobleman, who, at the beginning of winter, directed his last year's stock of ice to be distributed amongst the poor, I instructed Pharaoh's chief butler to parcel out the remainder amongst the illustrious princes and princesses, who accompanied us as our private and personal staff.

We this morning raised a baru singa, or

* I guess, that as it is a ghât on the river, at this spot they rest, and take off their boj-es, or burdens.

deer, whose horns present twelve points, being the first we had seen.

The lower range of the grand Himmâlâs, about four or five thousand feet high, and at the probable distance of forty miles, were visible this morning. Close to our tent we found the wild wampee, and a species of Andromeda, both in full flower.

At four in the afternoon, on the faith of one of Sam Lal's tail, we mounted our elephants and following the knave—who had been placed on the *outside* of a baggage elephant—traversed the forest, until we entered an extensive plain. On marking our leader more closely, it was easy to discover, that he was perfectly indifferent as to the course we ought to pursue, for he zig-zagged in all directions. At last, after crossing an extensive and deep marsh, we accidentally fell on the lair of some huge animal, either tiger, buffalo, or elk, which was triumphantly shown by Sam Lal, as being that which his emissary had marked. On this, I reproached him for his duplicity. We then split into small parties, sweeping the plains unsuccessfully around; and as it was getting dark, marched on to our tented ground, surrounded on all sides by peacocks, mewing

sweetly to their distant mates. The entrance to our camp, which was illuminated by rousing fires, was extremely beautiful,—the strong, but flickering light, bursting on lofty trees, groups of native servants, strings of horses, bullocks, camels, and bunjâras, with a rich and brilliant effect of chiaro-scuro.

On the plain we had passed some hundred large timbers, under transport, on hackeries, to Lucnow and the Doâb. An enormous source of revenue is almost wholly lost to the state, as the Zemindars, who, so far as I could learn, pay nothing for the forest, sell the largest timbers at eight annas a-piece; and they are felled at the same rate, by the forest carpenters. They are then fastened, two on each side of a canoe, which costs ten rupees at the utmost, and floated down the rivers, to the well-known ghâts, where they are sold at rates according to sizes, varying from eight to fifteen rupees each.

Sam Lal is now rising rapidly in his own estimation; from having been at first raised from the ground to an elephant, then from the pad to the howdah, he this morning accompanied us (tender exotic!) under the protection of a chatta! Sam Lal, sheltered by an um-

brella from the withering effects of the sunbeams, while Arnold's splendid and manly face, was merely sheltered by the narrow rim of a whitey-brown beaver, richly and tastefully adorned by a volute of pink ribbons! There is nothing like shade for the indigenous violets!

For a day or two, Sam was permitted to use one of my double-barrelled guns; but killing our second tigress, I observed that he had no exact idea of the value of a ricochet ball; so to prevent accident, I loaded it with powder and stiff wadding, and having abstracted the ramrod, to damp his investigations, I left him to discover why he never bagged anything. True, he did look hard at me on such occasions, but my brass was at least as stanch as his, and he could make nothing of it.

The reader may perhaps recollect that I related a conversation with Mr. Brown, in which I ventured to eulogize his musical powers. Let me now celebrate his exquisite talents for repartee, joined to a diplomatic tact in concealing what did not appear quite ripe for disclosure. The brigadier having given him instructions, never to mount without a supply of hard boiled eggs, applied to him this morning and received one; on cracking which,

he found his hands plastered with the unctuous contents! "Why, Tom! how is this? Did I not tell you to boil them hard?" "Hard! ai'nt it hard, sir?" said Thomas, with a look of surprise—"not hard, sir! Now, that *is* odd, for it was hard enough to break the tumbler;"—an accident which he had hitherto kept in the shade.

CHAPTER IV.

Firing a jungle—A moving spectacle—A false alarm—Elephants in quicksands—News of a tiger—The Mohun Nuddee—A wolf and tiger—A reasoning tree—Shocking spectacle—The gipsy's tale—A contrast—A young Rajah—Boa constrictor—Jungle game—A Rhunjur kutta—A wild ganja.

March 12th.—Mounted our elephants, and after setting fire to a tall grass jungle, which we had unsuccessfully beaten, and which, from the extreme rapidity of its conflagration, presented a very *moving* spectacle, we crossed the Mohun nuddee, and continued our course a couple of miles, arriving finally at a large marsh, swarming with baru singas, hog-deer, and mohuns, another species of *cervus*.

We saw no traces of tigers, although we wheeled round and round, until more marsh-sick than our army at Walcheren. My servant, the watchful Ghureeba (the poor one) gave the alarm, and stoutly affirmed that he had just seen a tiger walking away very leisurely, between two clumps of nurkool. I accordingly gave tongue and chase. Expectation stood on tip-toe; but, alas! it was soon discovered to be only another case of Flying Dutchman.

After another quarter of an hour's beat, the party wheeled gradually to the west, which manœuvre threw me three hundred yards in the rear. All of a sudden, those in front fired with the greatest rapidity, and moved in quick pursuit. I took it for granted that they had raised a tiger, and bustling up in high hope, found that the "shoot-nothing-but-tiger" law-makers, had been fairly seduced by a number of baru singas, of which, in a few seconds, they had killed two, which were speedily translated. The horns of the male had been recently shed.

We continued our course through the forest, and were tempted to re-cross the Mohun at a

ford, two or three miles above our camp. The mahouts, and not without reason, were no less alarmed than the elephants, at the chance of sinking in the quicksands on its banks. After crossing the smaller ones, the larger elephants followed in different tracks. I waited, and saw the sand yield under them all, like thin sheet ice; and had any of them remained still for a quarter of a minute, they would most probably have been engulfed, as air bubbles arose rapidly after the removal of their feet.

The sinking of elephants in quicksands is by no means an uncommon circumstance; and, as the depth of the quaking mass varies, some are occasionally rescued from destruction. When entangled, the sagacious animal expresses the horror he feels at his situation, in the most pathetic manner. He rolls from side to side, moans, and emits the most piercing cries; struggles with his dreadful fate, and at last dies, or sinks down, wholly worn out from unavailing exertions. It is dangerous to go within reach of his trunk, as he is quite frantic from despair. Numerous modes of extricating them are tried. Bundles of straw, branches of trees, coarse grasses, or brushwood,

are placed within reach of the trunk, which the animal forces under its feet, and sometimes with success.

While at Calpee, I tried a different plan, and rescued an enormous elephant (which had been presented to Lord William Bentinck, at Gwalior, by the great ruler of the Mahrattas) from destruction. I directed his distracted mahout to collect all the ropes in camp, and to fasten them to all the yokes of oxen procurable, and to the fore and hind leg on one side, whenever he should be resting himself on the other; then suddenly to goad on the oxen; by which means his limbs were converted into levers, and his body having been pulled to the edge of the quicksand, where it was still unbroken, he was upset on terra firma, and speedily hauled away from the sink, where he had been struggling a day and a night. For this valuable assistance—for I have nothing, or little else to recommend me—was I asked to dine with Lady William Bentinck—a blessing on her soirées! and served to soup, custard-pudding, ham, mashed salmon, maccaroni, trifle, salad, cranberry-tart, fowl, jelly, cutlets, and *Cape Madeira* (*!*) *ad libitum*, in rapid

succession—a nice French dinner, served by undrilled Hindoostanee kismigars.

Soon after we had crossed, a gwala, or cow-herd, came running up, lâtee or staff in hand, announcing the pleasing fact of his having seen a tiger kill and carry away a hog-deer. On entering on the details, he assured us that the tiger was now lying on this side of a tree that he pointed out, a couple of hundred yards a-head. This was *vraisemblable*, at least, so we cocked our guns, and stood up in our howdahs, ready for war to the knife. But on arriving at the spot, we were disappointed as usual. We turned back, and after we had re-beaten the cover, which was flanked by a small marsh, covered with ducks, bounded by a steep rugged bank, we were called back to a spot we had passed, and found the still warm carcass of a female hog-deer, whose sleek neck had very recently been in the foaming jaws of a tiger. She had also several gentle scratches on her body. Inspirited at this, we beat for a third time, but the tiger had wisely retreated to his dark and secure lair.

On leaving camp, from the quiet appearance of the hot and copper sky, we had predicted a

distressing day, but a strong west wind having sprung up, we found it delightfully cool and pleasant; and although exposed from eleven till six, none of us complained of the heat, or felt tired.

On some of the extensive plains, we found large orchards of the wild guava, which, cultivated, is an evergreen (but here deciduous, a curious fact), strongly resembling in their rough appearance the pear-tree in the hedges of Worcestershire. Waugh shot a baru singa, and a peacock, through their heads, with balls. At our tents we deposited three baru singas, one peacock, and a heap of black partridges. On returning, I bathed in the Mohun nuddee, as quietly as if it had been in the Severn.

During the rainy season, this river overflows the neighbouring country; and from the trees that had been rooted out from its banks, I should believe that it must be not less than forty feet deep. For dinner, besides inimitable gram-fed juicy mutton, we enjoyed delicious venison soup, venison cutlets, turkey, ham, and venison pasty. During the absence of Cureton, our conservative butler, it was most seriously discussed, whether or not, our blank days

sadly preponderating, it would be advisable in our commander-in-chief to rescind the light-tiger-field-force order, confining the drinking of hock to those days on which tigers had been slain. The Whigs were in the minority, and we were compelled to rough it on claret, sherry, port, porter, beer; with, after the ladies had retired, whisky-toddy, and Graham's Geneva, *ad libitum*.

Soon after dark, a villanous wolf planted himself on the opposite banks of the Mohun nuddee, and barked the live-long night. I was not prepared to find them in such a dark forest. Arnold also heard the short, snapping bark of a tiger. After dinner, we dispatched a letter to the refractory Zemindar, Raja Rutton Sing Buhadoor, to announce our arrival at Hulna-boj.

March 13th.—Still at Hulna-boj. Took a drive in the evening.

March 14th.—At Hulna-boj. On walking out this morning, before breakfast, I discovered a very curious instance of what appears a sentient principle in trees. This may stagger the proud ones of the earth. Two trees of different genera had grown to a great height (fifty or sixty feet), within three feet of each other.

In the course of the last few years, one of them had thrown out a low branch, in such a manner as to cross and touch the shaft of the other, thereby creating great pain and irritation. On this the afflicted tree, in turn, threw out a huge excrescence, which not only enveloped the offending branch, but strangled it so completely, as to destroy it utterly; the ends of the deadened boughs projecting three or four feet beyond the excrescence, while the latter was carried on a distance of three feet, across to the shaft of the tree, so as to render all chances of its future movement wholly impossible. If not done after reflection, how did this happen? To me it displays as much forethought and sagacity, as taking up an artery for aneurism, or tying splints round a broken bone; corking —aye—or uncorking a bottle, or any other process of man, preventive or adjuvant. Man, who, so far as regards the amount of knowledge, barely knows that two and two make four, sneers at the idea that other living beings enjoy the smallest share of reason. This is the pure spirit of ignorant selfishness. The reader is quite at liberty to cry nonsense to these wise reflections, but the *facts* were as I have related.

On returning home from making a sketch of this interesting object, I was interrupted by the low, melancholy, and querulous cries of a small wild-looking young man, sitting forty yards off, in the shade. The sounds were repeated at intervals, and at last I directed the servants to silence him, and to inquire what he wanted.

They went, conversed with him, and returned, saying, in a careless manner, that he was a nutt, or gipsy, who had been robbed. I could not help laughing! "Rob a gipsy! —breeks from a highlander!" I said; "that's too good; tell him to go." He continued moaning. I then desired them to send him to the guard, as he was probably sent to reconnoitre. However, on reflection, I went to hear what he had to say,—and, in my life, I was never more shocked! Round his loins there was tied a filthy rag, matted with dirt and blood; his long black hair hung in lumps over his face. On the right side of his head, a sabre-cut had unscalped six inches, which had fallen, blackened and gory, over his ear; part—and that a considerable one—of his skull was bare and white. His right hand was cut to pieces, so as to present a

mass of undistinguishable fragments; his left hand in the same condition. A ghastly wound in his arm-pit, seemed to separate his left arm from his side; two sabre-cuts on his right arm; a gash on his shoulder-blade; one on his forehead, down to the skull. Poor wretch! he sat waving his arms backwards and forwards, while "his moanings filled the land," with a voice sunken from thirst and agony.

I immediately called one of my servants, to bring him a cup of new milk, and it was administered to him little by little, as he could not move his jaws, from loss of the temporal muscle. The throbbings of the temporal artery were visible. I directed rich chuppattees, or soft flour-cakes, to be prepared without delay; and then wakened Ross, who jumped up, and declared that he had never seen a human being in a more miserable condition. His surgical instruments were brought out, and put in order, ready for what might be thought necessary after breakfast.

When we had finished our meal, we conveyed him into a spare tent, and Ross, having first cleaned and bound the dreadful wound on his skull, determined to amputate his left arm above the wrist. Considering his small size,

the man was exceedingly muscular, and either from fright or pain, he gave us great trouble during the operation. Both bones continued bleeding freely; but although the tourniquet was completely unscrewed, neither of us could see anything like an artery: so the stump was tied up as if they had been properly secured. Only one small vein was tied. He bore the pain with little fortitude, and both his struggles and cries were very distressing. During the process he swallowed fifty drops of laudanum, and two or three ounces of wine. I brought him a blanket, and laid him down to sleep in the corner of the tent.

When he awoke, very much refreshed, and free from pain, he told me in what manner he had been so cruelly butchered. He had left his party about fifty miles off, which having saved a considerable sum of money by rope-dancing and the usual gipsy feats, at Cawnpore, Futteh Gurh, and in other places in our territory, he had been deputed to carry forty-two rupees to his family, living at the foot of the hills in a forest village. The second night before we saw him, he had slept at a bunjârâ encampment, and I suspect had accidentally betrayed the secret of his having money on his

person. On his going to rest, they asked him at what hour he would proceed in the morning. Before daybreak he arose, and was accompanied, on some pretence, by one of the bunjârâs. While a few feet in advance, he was suddenly knocked down by the blow on his skull, and when prostrate, his clothes and money were seized. On his attempting to defend them, he was hacked in the manner I have described. On recovering his presence of mind he jumped up, and began running back towards the encampment, but was prevented, being chased by his intended murderer, and compelled to take the direction of our tents. The whole of the day before he had walked in that horrid condition, and so slept in the forest. In the morning the gwâlâs, or cowherds, told him that some Feringees were shooting tigers a few miles off, and that they would probably assist him. With much difficulty—for this specimen of forest hospitality damped even their ardour for money—I hired and despatched a messenger to give intelligence to his family, and bring them to his assistance.

European reader, place yourself in such a situation! A hot day, followed by a cold,

dewy night—your body covered by painful, uncleaned sabre wounds — hungry, thirsty, tormented with flies—in the bloom of youth, with the probability of a lingering death, and certain loss of limbs—by night, passing through a dark and dangerous forest; by day, almost in despair! But you—you must have your rich wines; your delicate food; your sumptuous clothing; your soft bed, "and slaves to fan you while you sleep;" your easy carriages; your prancing, gorgeous Arabs; your pleasant society; your soft music; your gay flower-beds; your prattling children; and still the world is not good enough! Still complaining, jealous, and envious, if any sage or fool be more successful in heaping up money, or acquiring a higher reputation. Your merit, your services have not been sufficiently rewarded. Oh, ass! in sober truth, *you* are the more pitiable wretch! The gnawing desires of your greedy soul are more repulsive and painful to the mind's eye, than the loathsome wounds of this poor gipsy.

As the dressing the nutt's wounds occupied some hours, both Ross and myself could not accompany the party. While in the tent, examining the wounded man, we were surprised

by the sudden entrance into camp of the Raja Rutton Sing, and two of his relatives, each mounted on elephants, with very fine sporting howdahs, of the most solid description. With true native economy, the ropes with which they were fastened were so worn and worthless, that if they moved incautiously from the centre, the howdahs slipped. The Raja entered the brigadier's tent, and was received with all due honour. His relatives remained on their elephants. Each had two or three flint guns, generally of large calibre, country-made.

The chief was a fine, handsome, portly man, five feet ten inches high, and about fifteen stone weight, with splendid whiskers, nicely trained. He was dressed in plain muslin. On his head, instead of a turban, he wore a solah topee, or sun-proof white hat, covered with linen, and edged with black, relieved by narrow silver tinsel, surmounted by a crescent. The hats of his relatives were of a similar description, but plain.

After sitting a reasonable time, the whole party mounted their elephants, and proceeded across the Mohun nuddee at eleven o'clock. They soon raised a tiger, which charged the

brigadier's elephant, received a ball, and then very prudently took to his heels.

Arnold shot a small boa-constrictor, about seventeen feet long, and eighteen inches in circumference, which, after having been brought to camp on an elephant, was carried with difficulty down to the river by four strong men, for the purpose of being skinned.

A deer, black partridges, and two animals called khuggur khutta by the inhabitants of the forest, were added to our larder. These latter animals I had never before seen, and I shall therefore describe them, for the purpose of giving the reader an idea of their nature. We found none on the west bank of the Gâgur. A khuggur khutta in general appearance strongly resembles an Alpine hare, but is of a reddish-brown colour. Its ears, instead of being long and narrow, as in the hare, are pear-shaped; its hair thick and crisp. In size, it is about two-thirds of the common hare; it takes quick, short leaps, like a rabbit, and also burrows in the ground. The natives say that it produces but one at a birth, like the hog-deer. I tasted its flesh, and found it tender and delicate; although the Mussulman servants of

the party affected to despise it as worthless, owing to its being one of the genera forbidden by Moses, which, with cloven feet, do not chew the cud.

The turf round our encampment was covered by the wild gânja, about six inches high.

CHAPTER V.

Raja's encampment—Tigers and floricans—A river bath—An alligator—A gallant field, but no game—A corpulent tiger—Alarm of elephants—A commander-in-chief—A digression—Elephants in a quagmire—Crocodiles—Hindoo humanity—A bear and tiger—Native gratitude—A breakfast *al fresco*—Wild elephant—Battle royal.

HAVING last night determined to change our ground, we this morning started at daybreak, accompanied by the ladies, to Baila Pursooa. After crossing a long, tiresome belt of forest, we found ourselves on an extensive plain, an hour wide; having had occasional shots at hog-deer, hogs, partridges, and floricans. Towards the end of the plain, we passed, on the right, the encampment of the Raja,

consisting of three small pauls, of a pattern similar to those used in our army for sepoys, but smaller. On our left, we saw the little village of Baila Pursooa. Having hired coolies for the purpose of carrying the nutt with us, he arrived after breakfast, and stated that he had not experienced any pain from his wounds: half an hour after, he ate his food *con gran gusto.*

The party, accompanied by the Raja, departed at eleven, and returned at sunset, without having seen a tiger. This was owing to a high wind, which kept the grass in constant waving motion. The Raja had pointed out one making his escape, at a considerable distance. Prints of tigers' feet, both large and small, were, however, abundant on the soft clay at the edge of the river Mohun. Out of three floricans which had been flushed, two cocks, with beautiful black breasts, were secured.

In the evening the brigadier and myself enjoyed the luxury of a bath in the river; and after dressing, my attention was directed by the natives to a very large alligator, which was calmly sleeping on the opposite bank, a

couple of hundred yards lower down. I fired at him with my rifle, and if I may be allowed to judge by his violent plunge, I wounded him. In the afternoon I received my emergent indent of red hermitage, Sauterne, and old Madeira, which had been brought from my cellar, on the heads of six coolies, in eight days, from Lucnow.

The loud barking of a tiger was heard all night, from the forest opposite. A north wind had given the air a most delicious coolness, and we enjoyed an undisturbed and grateful sleep.

March 16th.—Still at Pursooa. Breakfasted very early, and at nine the whole gallant field of twenty-five elephants started, under the guidance of the Raja, whose hurkhâru, or scout, had marked down two tigers. We marched slowly and anxiously, in different directions, not less than nine miles from camp, without being once favoured with a bright vision. Weary with our disappointment, we crossed the Mohun nuddee, and bent our course homewards. When passing through, and engaged in beating a high dry grass jungle at the edge of the forest, the whole party well

scattered over a space of fifty acres, we raised some enormous hogs, large mohuns, hog-deer, and partridges.

Waugh secured a huge mohun; and it was just transferred to a baggage-elephant, when one of the smaller wheeled suddenly round, and passed a spot about twenty yards from mine, with uplifted trunk, uttering a piercing cry. Another at her side showed similar alarm. Relying on the stanchness of mine, I immediately directed her to be taken to the suspicious place, when the Raja, seeing me advance, roared out, "Take care, sir! Beat well, sir; there is certainly a tiger there." In the meantime, the tiger had been creeping slowly ahead, under cover of the passage made by the deer through the grass, without any rustling. He had not advanced far in this manner, until he came suddenly upon one of the sportsmen, when, feeling himself detected, he gave a brilliant war-whoop, which the brigadier, ever ready, returned with a ball. He then galloped away, tail on end, visible to all; but from the effects of the ball, and his most unjustifiable corpulence (as a sporting animal), he was speedily blown to a

stand still. In the meantime we had all fired, and joined in rapid pursuit.

Finding he had no chance of escape, being headed, reared, and flanked, he boldly advanced upon Waugh and myself, who were at this time close together. He charged in a thoroughly gallant manner, lashing his tail, with a short delicate bark and snort intermingled. We waited quietly till he was within forty yards, when Waugh fired, and hit him on one of his lower teeth; the ball cut it off as if with a saw, cut through his tongue, and knocked out his opposite fang. He still advanced a few paces, with his bloody tongue hanging out, in increased fury. We were both cool and ready; he suddenly turned round, "with brazen eyes and hoary mane terrific." I then planted a ball near his tail, which ran along through his body; he gave a grunt of general dissatisfaction, tottered, fell, and

"Groaned out his soul, with gushing blood effused."

The whole party now surrounded him, admiring his wonderful size, pluck, and power; when, to our surprise and indignation, the commander-in-chief of his Highness the Raja's forces, most gallantly charged through the

crowd, and roaring out, "Where is the hârâm zadeh? Where is the—" (improper expression, which I decline repeating)—bravely fired at the fallen foe. The ass kicked at the dead lion! Whereupon the brigadier took the liberty to communicate his disapprobation of his Excellency's conduct, in the most delicate manner conceivable, in a few neat and pithy words. It is my painful duty to add, that Waugh ordered him to desist, and called him a *tinker!* Yes! he called the commander-in-chief of the Raja's forces—a tinker!

To an officer of "high degree," commanding a standing army of 150 musquets—to one enjoying the whole confidence of his sovereign, and a salary of twelve annas sonat (or eighteen pence) per diem, this must have been a grievous mortification. His proud, generous, and throbbing heart, was evidently bursting in his noble bosom; but with a gracious consideration for the youth, height, muscular figure, and inexperience of our friend, he remained silent. Here was a noble instance of indigenous generosity! And shall it pass silently down the stream of time, to sink for ever in the dark gulf of oblivion? Alas! that our hopes and fears, wishes and sighs, coughs, colds, and

colics, cannot be fossilized, and thus faithfully transmitted, as are vile oyster-shells, and vertebral processes, head, and horns of the sivatherium giganteum, for the satisfaction of our inquisitive and sentimentalizing posterity!

Return we now to the tiger. The animal was a splendid, and enormous male, in the very flower of tigerhood, with a dense band of coarse yellow hair round his shoulders, resembling the clipped mane of a lion. His carcass was placed on the back of an elephant, and we proceeded in an extended line, inspired with the hope of meeting his beauteous mate and amiable offspring.

You may call it a digression—if it be, it is certainly a philosophical one—but I must observe, that in this very field, I could not help pondering on our ignorance of the laws by which animals, eaters and eaten, consent to be bound, for the good of society—*i. e.*, their social contract. A tiger is an animal of beautiful scent; so is a deer; and so is a hog. Now the two last know perfectly well, that if the first be hungry, he will catch, kill, and eat them; and yet, with their ever-alive suspicions, they are all three found sound asleep within a few yards of each other!

At the termination of the plain, we encountered a long narrow marsh; and as the day was burning hot, perchance the tigress and cubs had taken refuge in its cool shady limits, so we determined to descend its steep banks. The gallant Raja led the way, followed by Arnold, Cureton, and myself—all keeping the same track. I soon discovered that my elephant experienced great difficulty in lifting her feet from the rich bottom mud, and that the exertion would be too great to be pleasant to myself ; so with a compound care I retreated. For the Raja, the ground was unbroken, but for Arnold and Cureton it had become a perfect quagmire ; both their elephants stuck firmly, and for more than a quarter of an hour, I had doubts whether they would ever be able to leave the marsh. Small elephants were sent to relieve the sportsmen, and remove their pads, howdahs, and batteries; by which means, and by the greatest exertions of the mâhouts, they were at last liberated from their extremely unpleasant situations.

Nothing could better demonstrate the selfish coolness of the natives, than their behaviour on this occasion. Seeing the gentlemen in distress, they very quietly retreated a couple

of hundred yards off, and looked on with perfect indifference, until they were threatened with punishment, and had been grossly abused by the mâhouts of the marsh.

We pursued our homeward course, passing through the skirts of the cool and extensive forest,

> "Whose hairy sides,
> With thicket overgrown, grotesque and wild,
> Access denied; and overhead up grew
> Insuperable height of loftiest shade,
> A sylvan scene; and as the ranks ascend,
> Shade above shade, a woody theatre
> Of stateliest view."

During the hunt, in all the marshes, I observed the cautious and stealthy motions of the crocodile, which are probably left there during the impetuous outpourings of the rapid Mohun nuddee, when the resistless current overflows its steep banks, tearing up and sweeping away mighty trees.

The saâckoo, or saul, is now bursting into leaf or flower, I cannot say which; for as the lowest branches are from forty to fifty feet high, it is difficult to ascertain. Many trees reach eighty feet; after which, being valuable in the market, they are cut down and removed. I observed two trees that had been naturally

grafted by approach; and another, which having died, was covered with mushrooms, all parallel to the horizon.

After a weary day, and capital hock-crowned dinner, I went very sleepy to bed; but I had not long slept, before I was wakened by a dialogue, in the choicest Lancer Hindoostanee, between Ross and his bearer. As the weather was threatening, the wounded nutt had been placed to sleep within the outer and inner walls of our sleeping tent; and as the poor wretch felt uneasy from lying long on the coarse cords of the charpâee, he expressed a wish to the bearer to have something soft placed under him. This delicacy excited the warmest indignation of the innocent Hindoo.—A *nutt*, forsooth, to complain! A *nutt* to want something soft under him! 'Twas such a pretty piece of effeminacy and impudence, that he must mention it to his sahib!

No sooner had Ross heard it, than he immediately directed him to remove his own mattress, and place it under the wounded man. The bearer was shocked! Surely he misunderstood his master! Did his master really mean to give up his own mattress? All I can say on the occasion is, that none but a kind-

hearted, honest, stout gentleman, could have afforded to have committed an action so truly benevolent!

March 17th.—The party, accompanied by the Raja's relatives only,—as he was detained by his bramin for the performance of some peculiar religious discipline, — commenced hunting after breakfast; a gwâlà having arrived to invite us to dispatch a tiger that had slain one of his buffaloes, in the very spot where we yesterday killed our "fat friend." I was disinclined to go a hunting, and preferred lying in bed reading during the day. The party returned in the evening with a fine male, —being the fifth tiger. A bear was seen, and hotly pursued, but bruin reconnoitred by standing up on one of his hind legs, when perceiving that he was discovered, he trotted off. No small game of any kind could be procured.

We roasted a florican, which having been kept three days, was a most exquisite treat to lovers of game *en haut gout.* In the mornings and evenings, the screaming of peafowl and black partridges was endless; and during the night a tiger was heard barking, on the banks of the river, close to camp.

An hour or two after I had first seen the

wounded nutt, I despatched a stout Mussulman gwâlà to search for, and bring his relations. Six of them arrived this morning, laden with well-worn bamboos and ropes, their professional implements; one of them, later than the others, just as I was paying the man a visit, and the interview was exceedingly natural and affecting. The stranger stood about twenty feet distant, and lifting up his hands, exclaimed—"You! oh, my brother! is it really you, oh, my brother? My brother wounded, helpless, and mangled! Ah! ah, my brother!" and then he rushed forward, sobbing, and embraced his feet. The wounded man answered at intervals—"There—there is he who saved me! He has kept me safe! There is he who cherished and protected me!" The whole in that recitative tone, which is so peculiar to nutts and kunjurs. One and all fell at my feet, and expressed their gratitude in the most lively and oriental terms. "May your dominion increase! (over my wife?)—May your prosperity prosper!—May your wealth abound!" and so forth.

All this was very correct and proper; but no sooner had they sat down, than I saw one of them very busy grinding down some bang

leaf into powder, wherewithal to make "subza," or the green drink, an intoxicating preparation, for the wounded man with a deep gash in his skull! I told the pharmacopolist that he would incur our severest displeasure, should he prepare and present him with any such pernicious drug, or with anything that we did not allow him; and he promised to abstain most faithfully.

March 18th.—Marched before sunrise, and about nine, arrived at and crossed the Mohun nuddee, not two feet deep, encamping on the west bank, in a beautiful grove of young sissoo trees, whose delicate green leaves and snowy blossoms were unfolding their verdant beauties. Found our breakfast tent pitched, but the kitchen and *artistes* in the rear; so we got up a breakfast on such articles as had been despatched yesterday. At first we were a little distressed for chairs, but they came dropping in one by one. To be sure, there was little or nothing to eat, but a delicate brisket of corned gynee, or dwarf beef, cold roast and boiled gram-fed mutton, exquisite bread, and delicious butter; rich sweet cow's milk in abundance; green tea, salt, pepper, and sugar; currant and apricot jellies. People were a little out of

spirits at these short commons, but for my own part, I reminded them that it was the duty of sportsmen and soldiers to bear privations and sufferings with a good grace. The example I had so cheerfully set was soon followed, and long faces were at a discount.

I passed the remainder of the day in elegant retirement; but the party sallied out as usual, accompanied by the Raja, and returned at night disconsolate and sad, not having enjoyed even a glimpse of a tiger, although they traced one so far as to come upon one of its victims, a young buffalo calf, in its expiring agonies. At one time, the hunters were highly excited by the distant sight of a large wild elephant; but this was soon damped by seeing a mâhout jump on, as he had previously slid off, his neck.

Waugh produced two fine peafowl, and Ross a wild cock, for the larder, and the others some black partridges. The tigers' skins were all under preparation; and what with their own rich odours, mingled with that of the pounded turmeric used in preserving them, the Sabean scents emanating from the long strips of tiger's flesh drying in the shade, hanging from trees over the bivouacs of the

mihturs, princes, or sweepers, curing for the purpose of being sold to gwâlâs, as charms against the diseases of oxen; the boiling down of tiger's flesh, for the extraction of the fat, to be bottled and sold at high prices, as the "sovereignest thing in the world" for rheumatism; there were certainly propagated a very respectable collection of smells in the native end of the encampment.

The Raja told us a very interesting tale, describing his having heard a dreadful battle between two enormous male tigers, which lasted all night. In the morning, he found one of their mangled carcasses, and soon afterwards shot the survivor, covered with horrid recent wounds. I cannot bring myself to believe this. There are those who will say, that it lowers the tiger too nearly to a level with august and tender man!

CHAPTER VI.

Taking the field—Moosulmân horror of pork—A Raja at his toilet—Beating for tigers—A sporting Raja—Vultures—Destructiveness of tigers—Burning the fields—Singular effect—Tiger and bear—A pig's palace—Mansion of a bear—Splendid stag—An Indian forest—Desolation—Wild elephants—Keen sportsmen—Secret worth knowing—More tigers—A tooffan—Native delicacy—Salmi of peacock—Two tigers shot—Shepherds—Hindoo innocence and integrity—Another tiger.

March 19th.—After breakfast, sallied out with the mighty hunters, taking nineteen elephants with us. On crossing a field of high grass, we scared a herd of pigs, and killed a little one; but in consequence of the entire absence of discipline amongst them, we could not persuade the màhouts of the spare elephants to carry

it, so that we were obliged to relinquish some delicate eating, to the great triumph of the insolent drivers.

The Raja was not quite ready at our starting, and as our route led us close to his camp, we surprised him in his forest lair—

"The Douglas in his hall."

The scene was curious. The great man was actually at his toilet. He stood, unstockinged, upon a low but broad wooden stool, raised six inches above the ground. Strange as it may appear, he had evidently been washing his face, for in one hand he held an officiating towel. Close to him was a bed; and at his feet were some large brazen vessels containing water, mounted on a tripod. His bed was ornamented with two pillows, and sheets of a delicate "russetty brown." They, too, had been washed, I presume, at some remote period. Within a few paces, a native soldier stood on guard, in a style of the most careless but determined bravery; and numerous adherents, each sabre in hand, were surrounding their gracious prince, regardant. In the rear, were groups of wild tattoo mares, some heavy in foal, but saddled; others with their frolicking

young colts at their heels; native greyhounds in leashes; and several couples of beautiful bâjes, or hawks, were perched on the hands of their keepers, uttering wild screams.

In a few minutes his party mounted their elephants, and joined the *cortêge*. After an hour's beating, we were accosted by a cowherd, who assured us that a tiger had killed one of his buffaloes, only half an hour before. We placed plaintiff on an elephant, and followed his course for a quarter of an hour, till we arrived at a high grass jungle, on the border of which, true enough, lay the still warm body of a female buffalo, heavy in calf, with a large hole on its rump, from which the tiger had been taking comfortable steaks, on principles strictly gastronomical.

We had now an opportunity of observing in what a truly sportsman-like manner the Raja carried on the war. The field, which perhaps contained sixty acres, was bounded on one side by the sands of the river; on another, by a steep bank; and on the remaining sides by low grass, over which a tiger could not creep without being perfectly visible. On the bank, and low grass, he posted elephant videttes; formed close line with the remaining force; and with

a low but shrill word of command, he wheeled round on a pivot several times, with admirable tact and facility. We beat and re-beat this small spot for a full hour, certain that it contained the buffalo butcher, from the circumstance of having seen fresh prints of his feet over some rich mud, at the bottom of a narrow stream by which the field was intersected. The animal escaped, probably because the stream, from its narrowness and great depth of mud, was impassable for the beating elephants.

On returning very tired and mortified to our camp, we found the body of its victim, surrounded by more than a hundred vultures, while others were still descending from vast heights, although not one was visible when we first saw it. It was wholly impossible that they could have been attracted by any odour from its body, for two reasons; the first, that it was quite fresh, and secondly, the odour would, of course, have been carried only to the leeward, whereas the birds were descending from all quarters.

These blank days are as certainly distressing to true sportsmen, as they can be to the gwâlâs; to whom there is not a tiger in the land that is not worth a hundred rupees, from the destruc-

tion on which it exists. The damage done by tigers in the wilder parts of India, is beyond the belief even of Indo-European residents; and must consequently appear an exaggeration to distant Englishmen. General (then Captain) Briggs, while resident at Dhoolia, in Candeish, in 1821, told me, that in the single kingdom of Candeish, where his pŏtails, or head men, were obliged to keep a register of the oxen (exclusive of sheep and goats) destroyed in their villages, no less than twenty-one thousand had been killed in three years! As no register is kept in Oude, it is impossible to calculate the number; but I think, from what I have seen and heard, that it must be very considerable, in proportion to its extent, and that, of all the Indian sports, unquestionably tiger shooting is the most beneficial to the natives.

We reached our quarters before it became dark, and soon afterwards we saw a part of the lower range of the hills, with its crest, illuminated by a bright stripe of fire, owing to the burning of the grasses. The effect was beautiful in the extreme — as if a flash of lightning had been arrested through its whole course.

At night we were informed by an emissary

from the Raja, that his scouts had brought a likely account of a tiger and bear, both well known to the neighbourhood, having taken up their position in a corner of the forest; and that he would recommend our proceeding there at daybreak. To this proposal unanimous consent was given.

March 20th.—Rose very early, mounted our nags, and crossed the Mohun nuddee, to pay our respects to the tiger and bear in an unceremonious morning visit. We passed along the edges of the forest, and saw many lonely spots, from which, had we been in England, we might have expected splendid cocking; but our researches after the tiger were perfectly fruitless. We however saw a very great curiosity, which I—but perhaps not the reader—had often before seen—a pig's palace! The care and skill with which it had been constructed, gave me enlarged and correct views of the architectural talents of this distinguished animal. Over a natural, or artificial cavity, about eight feet square, boughs of trees and coarse grasses had been thrown for a roof; and long delicate grass was most carefully placed in parallel rows, as if done by the hands of an accomplished thatcher, to throw off the rain.

At one end there was a propylæum, or passage, for the sow and pigs. Like the Parthenon, and I presume for the same reason, it had no windows. It was unfortunately empty; probably as the interesting inhabitants, who had been educated in abhorrence of idleness, were employed at their matin labours earning their daily bread. To a warm heart and guileless fancy, can there be a more enchanting spectacle, than to behold a large, fat, but still active sow, followed by her

"Gay, guileless, sportive, lovely little pigs?"

I ascertained from the Raja, that the natives of the forests (not pigs) are in the habit of cooking and eating the wild guava as a vegetable.

Coming through some high grass we raised many fawns of the hog and spotted-deer; and that of a hog-deer was caught by my servants, and presented to Miss Churchill, on whose lap it had the honour to be carried till we reached camp.

We were leaving the thick forest to cross the Mohun nuddee, when we strayed upon the mansion of a bear. It was a simple gallery, which extended about twenty-five feet. After

a little deliberation, we filled the mouth with dry grass, in the hope of smoking out the interesting inhabitants; but after all our efforts, owing to the dead level, we were unable to throw out any considerable volume of smoke from the other end.

After burning Bearsville, in the most approved style of barbarism, we pursued our course; crossed the river near our yesterday's encampment; afterwards a large plain; and just before re-entering the forest, we raised a splendid stag, with immense antlers. He was, however, a little too quick for our sportsmen, who were reclining in their howdahs, reading novels and newspapers.

We had not proceeded a couple of hundred yards further, when some bunjârâs alarmed a small herd of spotted deer, amongst which was another large stag with branching horns, that fairly run the gauntlet of six very fair shots, and halted not, with his zunana at his heels, till full eight hundred yards off.

We now entered the forest, whose banks were bordered with narrow lakes, from the neighbourhood of which, Waugh, with his usual zeal, good sense, and good shooting, brought to camp a couple of brace of wild

fowls, and Ross a pleasant addition to the larder, of a fat hog-deer. The forest at this place was only about half a mile wide, and its appearance was of the most melancholy character. It had been stripped of all its valuable trees, while thousands, which had been cut down, were lying rotting on the ground, many of them considerably burnt. The ground was destitute of any underwood, from the effects of the annual conflagration, and appeared black and disgusting. Many of the surviving trees were dying by inches in the villanous hugs of enormous creeping plants, which hung down in twisted festoons of all diameters, from that of cables to that of sewing silk! The whole bore such marks of desolation, that I would at any time rather dine without a damask table-cloth, than re-cross it without sufficient reasons.

We did not reach our encampment (under the shade of a few old mango trees, in the midst of a large plain) until past eleven—high time indeed for breakfast; but since the ladies, as usual, shared our sorrows, according to the old axiom, we felt only half the misery. The lower branches of the mango trees had been completely killed by the frosts, and the

edges of the forest displayed the same very unusual spectacle.

The morning had been dull and cloudy, and in the afternoon we had several small showers of rain; and as our large tents had not arrived, the wounded nutt had been merely placed in the shade. When the rain fell I gave his relations a shuttrinjee, or cotton carpet, and they ingeniously fastened it to the earth with wooden pegs, so as to form a perfect rain-proof shelter.

The keen sportsmen determined to pursue their calling, and got into their howdahs after breakfast, during a smart shower which would have deterred most men. They returned before dinner, bringing in only two floricans out of four they had flushed. The uncommon scarcity of the feathered game this year can only be attributed to the severe frosts having destroyed the young birds. As the night was cold, dark, and gloomy, we fastened up our dinner-tent kunnâts, or walls, and indulged in some extra bottles of unmerited hock. The Raja sent a messenger to acquaint and warn us, that as the country around swarmed with wild elephants, it would be highly imprudent to march before daybreak. This was carried *nem. con.*

I was much amused at the solemn professional air of mysterious secrecy assumed by the brigadier's baker. I can say, with truth, that more delicious bread was never eaten in India than that with which we were daily supplied in the most liberal and unsparing manner. Seeing the artist at work with his oven, and knowing that it was impossible that he could procure târee, or toddy, for the fermentation, I asked him in what manner he contrived to find a substitute so effectual in the jungles? "I put in mâsâlâ, sir."—Aye, but what mâsâlâ do you use? "That which I was instructed to use by my ôstâd,"—or teacher. This closely resembled the answer of the huntsman who had his peculiar mode of rearing puppies. What do you give them, John? "Summut I mixes!" I asked him if he were really afraid of my spoiling his trade —by turning baker? The khansaman heard, laughed, and communicated the mighty secret, which is well worth knowing at outposts, where târee is not procurable; he stated that it consisted of d'hâee, or sour milk curd, mixed with cheenee, or brown sugar.

March 21.—Mounted at sunrise, and marched to Bussuntpore (the City of Spring), distant

eight miles, on the west bank of the Chowka nuddee. After breakfast, a chupperassee, or badgeman, produced a Persian letter from a neighbouring thannadâr, or justice of the peace, announcing his having dispatched a runaway camel that had deserted at Bâila Pursooa.

Crossed a strip of forest, similar in condition to that of yesterday. The hunters remounted their elephants, on having received authentic intelligence of tigers; and at the distance of two miles from camp, Arnold saw a tigress reposing under a tree. She was pointed out by a native, who having killed a fawn, was stooping to pick it up, when the tigress saved him the trouble, by carrying it off to her cub, who soon after shared the same fate as his dam. Both fought bravely, and after divers charges, they were ultimately placed on the guddees, or elephant pads, and brought home in triumph. They were both exceedingly fat, with remarkably brilliant skins.

During the fight, the brigadier's elephant, a huge male, charged the tigress, and nearly threw him out of the howdah; but he escaped without any loss but the breaking of the stock of one of his large English made-to-order elephant-shooting guns, which was thus ren-

dered *hors de combat.* They had no sooner delivered their prizes than they returned to the field, having received fresh intelligence, but returned unsuccessful, after having seen the most unequivocal proofs of the recent presence of a tiger. They brought home a full-grown doe. Waugh and Ross took a different course, and brought home a young baru singa (twelve-tipped deer), a hare, and a heap of chucores.

In the afternoon we enjoyed the cool breeze from a dry tooffan, which was usherȩd in with peals of thunder and forked lightning.

No sooner was the cloth removed, than the brigadier was informed that a messenger had arrived from the Raja, who had something confidential to communicate. The brigadier left the company to hear this important message; and on returning, we heard, to our great amusement, that he had been waited upon by the commander-in-chief, a Matrasian, who spoke English, with the Raja's compliments, that he expected a handsome gun, as a keep-sake, from all gentlemen who sported over his manor! This was received with bursts of applause, and encored. None of our guns, upon due consideration, were good enough for

such a dignified potentate, and therefore the emissary returned as he came.

Here is another guide to the delicate feelings of natives of rank. This Raja, who fills the situation of a gentleman, did not scruple to watch his *mollia tempora fandi* (his hour of diddling), after we had sipped our hock and hermitage, to beg, with the most audacious meanness, for a valuable fowling-piece! How would a man stare, either in the highlands or lowlands, if Glengarry or Coke had sent such a message!

At our second course we had some delicate salmi of peacock, which we ate with bread-sauce, superlative; and I do not at all exaggerate when I declare that, in the shape of winged game, I have never tasted anything to be compared to it in richness and flavour.

March 22nd.—Marched on elephants, the ladies riding and being driven to Bâboora, distant only six miles. The first thing we heard after our arrival was, that the Raja and his relations had shot two tigers, on their first setting out from yesterday's camp, without our aid or presence. To do him justice, he had given previous information that he would seek for some that had been marked. The

brigadier, however, had thought it better to proceed to our new ground, and then hunt after breakfast. We skirted the river and forest, about a mile on our left, passing over rich and extensive plains, occasionally near rich crops of wheat and barley, now ripe for the sickle. We also saw—I for the first time—a manufactory of kut, or catechu, which was in full work; but I had not time to dismount and examine the process, as I subsequently wished I had done.

Our camp was in the middle of an extensive plain, under some beautiful burgot trees, the skirts of which, hanging down to the ground, were bounded with wild lemon bushes trailing on the ground, beginning to flower. The spot had formerly been occupied as a shelter for grazing cattle; and had, in consequence, become a huge, dry, but entirely scentless dunghill. Close to our tents were two high-grass walled enclosures, which accommodated more than two hundred small cows. Some plantain trees which surrounded different embankments, raised for the protection of plantations of mangoes, were, with them, completely killed by the winter frosts.

Remounted at ten, and beat a high grass

jungle to the south of our camp. This was the usual grazing ground of vast herds of buffaloes, all accompanied by their keepers, one of whom had this very morning announced the death of one of their numbers by a tiger. The grass was about nine feet high, and so dense, that an object could not be seen at the distance of fifty feet, although it had been greatly thinned by burning. The only protection possessed by the gwâlâs against the numerous tigers, was the power of ascending the dry deserted white ant-hills, which rose some seven or eight feet; from these natural watch-towers a tiger might be seen at a distance by the waving of the grass, but only on a calm day. We, nevertheless, saw a number of them tending their herds as coolly and quietly as if they had been placed within the sheltered meadows of England.

The grass swarmed with wild hogs and deer of various kinds; which latter animals were in such a state of alarm, from the length and irregularity of our line, that they very frequently, when encircled, dashed on the feet of our almost equally frightened elephants, and continually passed within a few feet.

After an hour's hard work, we raised a huge

male tiger, and got some distant shots at him, and gave full chase for another hour; but he fairly distanced us, running like a greyhound. The ground was in the highest degree unfavourable to the progress of our huge hunters, as it was covered, not only by dense bristly grass, but also by small conical knobs of earth, a foot and a half high, caused by the overflowing of the Chowka nuddee, washing between the roots of the grass. We were much guided in our race after the royal brute by a couple of herdsmen, who, from their snug retreat on the tops of some dâk trees, pointed out the direction of his flight. We flushed some floricans, of which we contrived, although they too were exceedingly wild, to bag two hens and a cock, all very ancient birds.

The glare was so great, that I returned to camp; but before I could reach it, a little fellow was despatched by the Raja, to present me with his compliments, and to inquire whether we had killed our tiger. I replied in the true oriental style, that the tiger had escaped, but, *by his favour*, we had bagged some floricans!

At dinner we all agreed, that the labour we had experienced in forcing our way through

the grass, was the most excessive we had yet endured. Sam Lal, who had quietly followed us in the hopes of obtaining a favourable opportunity, addressed the brigadier when alone, and told him of the great loss he had sustained by accompanying our party, as during his absence from home, two of his ploughboys, slaves whom he had purchased at seventy rupees each, had deserted and fled to another village; winding up with the modest request, that he would furnish him with a perwannah, or order, to the zemindar of the village (in Oude, and out of the British dominions), who had sheltered them, either to give up the fugitives, or pay their value in cash!

This was a bold experiment for Sam; but, alas! it proved a failure, as the brigadier sent our friend, Tom Brown, to ascertain, from me, whether such a procedure would be correct on his part. I set the question at rest in a moment; and I believe that no such elopement had occurred, but that it was altogether an ingenious attempt to defraud the brigadier, or plunder the zemindar, through his agency. Sam did not appear quite at his ease when the case was referred to me, and departed scowling. Sam Lal is another specimen of the Indian

country gentleman—another of the innocent and oppressed Hindoo. If he had really sustained any loss, he would have explained the matter to me, as one acquainted with the native language and customs. But he thought he had a better chance of plunder with the assistance of the brigadier's servants, who would no doubt have received their wonted salââmee, or "regulars," had his petition been successful.

Untired by their morning's work, Cureton and Waugh went on foot to shoot ducks, in a marsh within half a mile of our camp. After much wading through the mud, Waugh shot a duck, and lost his shoes. They were mightily cheered in their sport, by observing numerous recent prints of the feet of a tiger; and on their return in the evening, we heard that a well-known tiger, of bad character, resided in that very marsh.

CHAPTER VII.

Breakfast and news—A family misfortune—Asking for information—A royal tiger—A narrow escape—A mohun marsh game—A begging rajah—Bishop Heber—Ward on the Hindoos—Mountstuart Elphinstone—Baboora—Beating for a tiger—A view holloa—A refractory camel—A man killed by a tiger—Mullets—Metaphysics—How to miss your road—Sam Lal again—Native agriculture.

March 23rd.—Still in the lemon grove of Bâboora.

We had scarcely breakfasted—a thing, by-the-bye, that we never did in a hurry—before a camel dâk arrived, with our newspapers and letters; the perusal of which occupied our attention till nearly eleven. I am truly loth, at all times, to intrude my personal sorrows, or private affairs—as the reader must have re-

marked; but on the present occasion, I feel that I may not only divulge them, but rely on the sympathy of my sorrowing friends. I, too, alas! had my letters from home! I had left in delicate health—having lately suffered from dyspeptic miseries, consequent on the incautious deglutition of "more than her own share" of indigestible *bouilli*—"Tripe" my sweet bullbitch;—and she was "no more!" Her sister "Trollope" had become the last surviving heiress and representative of the virtues of their mother "Bluff."

When this painful shock had rebounded from the shield of my philosophy, I wandered out alone, in melancholy mood, to meet the Raja, who was waiting our arrival on the banks of the very marsh where Cureton and Waugh had been last night shooting. His scouts had marked down a tiger within its borders. We entered into conversation, on his asking whether I were personally acquainted with the king, resident, or minister? As I had reason to believe that (like Jeremiah Diddler) he only "asked for information," and that he would endeavour to make me useful at court, I coolly answered, that they were all dear and honoured patrons, but that I never trans-

acted business with the lower, or meddled with the affairs of the upper classes. He evidently understood me.

In a few minutes, the brigadier and the remainder of the party joined us, with a field of twenty-five elephants, and—

> "Breathing united force, with fixed thought,
> Moved on in silence."

We traversed the light green grass-covered marsh, wheeling round and round, till we came to the banks of a narrow strip of water, when the brigadier gave a signal that he had seen traces. We were immediately all alive, barrels in hand, standing erect in our howdahs, and in a few anxious seconds Ross fired, and then out rushed a brave tiger, who very gallantly charged the whole line. Before he could be clearly seen, he was mortally wounded by a deadly volley, while nobly advancing to charge the brigadier's elephant, which he had singled out. His thigh was broken, and he lay on the ground roaring in impotent agony. In a little time he received the *coup de grace*, and was transferred to the pad of a spare elephant. In his lair we found several well-gnawed buffalo bones: it was close to the spot where the duck-

shooters had been sporting the preceding evening. Mrs. and Miss Churchill were present, and saw from the start to the death.

I am persuaded, that had his thigh not been broken, this tiger would have mounted, and taken a share of the howdah with Mrs. Churchill; for he was young, exceedingly brave and active, and most probably ambitious.

As it was getting hot, it became necessary to convey the ladies to camp; and on our way thither, we raised a large mohun, one of whose hind legs was broken with a ball,—but it ran fast enough to distance the field, through a large herd of cows, which seemed to participate in its alarms. One of the Raja's relations was despatched to run it down.

The marsh and its neighbourhood swarmed with snipe of all kinds, black partridges, and a few hog-deer, of which we wisely availed ourselves. A detachment returned to its neighbourhood, and in the evening brought in three floricans and some deer.

While sitting at our wine and walnuts, we were visited by one of the Raja's hurkharas, or messengers, with a message regarding our to-morrow's sport. After we had discussed that point, he, with the usual policy of his race,

showered out so many encomiums on our courage, success, and *generosity*, that it was easy to see that he thought we were in a proper mood for attempting to obtain a present. I stopped him short, by asking, whether or not he was a servant of the Raja's? On his answering in the affirmative, I inquired as to the amount of his salary, to which he answered, "Twelve annas a month." Indeed! then if you behave well, we'll make it up to a rupee! Chulo! Be off!

Sam Lal now introduced himself, being also determined to try if his stars were in the ascendant; and after much cringing and bowing, the brigadier and his party contributed thirty rupees, for which he proffered the most illimitable devotion. He had no sooner pocketed the money, then he walked round to Arnold's chair, and, putting his hands together, with an air of the most insinuating flattery, erected his breaching battery, and commenced firing his bows and smiles, in unceasing salvos.

Ap burra sâhib ho! You are a great man!
Ap ka burra hoodda hy! You enjoy a high dignity!
Ap ka dowlut bhurtee ruhe! May your wealth increase!
Myn âp ka gholâum hoon! Khoodâbund! } I am your worship's slave! Master!
Myn buhoot ghureeb âdmee hoon! I am a very poor man!

At last my British patience—for Arnold never winced—was quite exhausted. "What, said I, "are you not ashamed to beg in this manner? What is it you want?"—"I want a gun!"

Yes! Sam wanted a double-barrelled Manton's detonator, back-actioned, with powder, shot, spare nipples, nipple screw, caps, balls, bullet mould, cleaning rods, case and cover;—that was all! He had hinted as much to me a few days before, when, thinking the request might have originated in ignorance, I asked him, if he knew the value of such an article? He said, No; and I explained fully, and inquired if he thought we were fools, to buy valuable guns to give them away to any greedy knave who chose to ask for them? But even this, it seems, did not damp Sam's ardour! He was so impudent in his importunities, that he almost required force to dislodge him. After he had wholly disgusted the company by his meanness, he retired.

We had hardly recovered from our loathing, before the indefatigable Sam returned, addressing the party with an air of great anxiety, with joined hands. Now, what do you want? "Khooch bhool gôu, sâhib!"—I have forgotten

something, sir! What had he forgotten? Had he left behind his pocket-handkerchief?—missed his snuff-box?—lost his spectacles?—mislaid his gloves, or walking-stick? Ah, no! he now only begged a handsome (*quasi ad interim*) supply of powder and shot, such as, he said, had always been given him by other gentlemen, and such as, I sincerely hope, will never again be given him!

Had Bishop Heber and Abdoollah "passed this way," what a correct and flaming account we should have had of the martial and dignified bearing of the illustrious "ghureeb purwur," Sam Lal bahadoor, the brave rajpoot chieftain, and powerful zemindar! Indeed, with the help of Hamilton's Gazetteer, and Abdoollah's interpretation, it would have been discovered that Sam was deeply versed in the sungskirut poorâns, and inspired, perhaps, with bitter anger at the very mention of the name of the heresiarch Bhuddh!

Scott, the amusing author of "A Visit to Paris," when passing through the street of a small town in France, on his way to the capital, in the diligence, at *the rate of five miles an hour*, merely observed signs of "courteousness and decorum" in the houses which he had

passed; but the travelled bishop, in complete ignorance of the language of the country through which he marched, on hearing the obscene jokes of Abdoollah (for such they unquestionably were), rebuked, as being unfit for the ears of an old man, *boodda* admee (or merely boodda), converted an ignorant, clod-hopping labourer into a critical expounder of mysterious shasters, and the vituperator of the illustrious Boodh, of whom he had most probably never even heard! So much for the "gloss of Bhudd," and talent of observation, in strange lands, uncoupled with a knowledge of their languages! (Vide *Heber's Journal*, 12th vol., p. 305, 2nd edition.) Heber will, no doubt, continue to be quoted, so far as he goes, on Indian matters; while a work on which the most perfect reliance may be placed—a work second to none ever written, for fidelity, accuracy, laborious research, patient details, and a rare Christian spirit—"Ward's Account of the Hindoos"—is never, or very rarely, mentioned! "And so much for fame," as Lord Byron said, on seeing a friend's name mis-spelt in the *Gazette*. For a general account of the inhabitants of India, it is not probable that one superior, or even equal to

that of Mountstuart Elphinstone will ever be written.

March 24th.—Still at Bâboona. We could not leave this lovely spot without another attempt at an interview with the noble brute that had outstripped us on our arrival, so we determined to beat the high-grass jungle at the back of our encampment, on our route to our next ground at Tilia Khoond, trans Chowka nuddee. We were all seated in our howdahs long before sunrise, and commenced our beat, having despatched our baggage in such a manner as to skirt the jungle and river. We proceeded very leisurely and determinedly, resisting for a long time the strong temptation of firing at the hog-deer, huge hogs, floricans, and tender fawns that were continually crossing our paths; until, being close to the end of the plain, we fired at some hogs and floricans.

Gazing ahead, still anxious for a glance at a tiger, all of a sudden I saw a huge male, cantering away for his life, climbing up a steep bank 300 yards ahead. I gave a view holloa, which was duly valued, and we gave chace for nearly half an hour at our best speed, having crossed a deep and rapid, but narrow river, with steep banks, in our pursuit. On

losing sight of him we spread like a sky-rocket, and then re-formed to beat another cover, where we were more successful; for one of our native friends fired two or three shots at another smaller tiger, to which we gave chace, but he also escaped us unwounded. During the passages we raised great numbers of floricans.

We continued our researches, all spread over the ground, when we heard a shot, and crowding all sail, soon found that Cureton had killed a young tigress with a single ball. On trying to place this on our elephants, it was curious to observe the violent hatred shewn to the carcass by one of the males. He rushed at and tried to pierce it with his tusks, and at last gave it a kick of contempt. This was our ninth and last tiger.

We reached our tent to breakfast by half-past ten; it was pitched on the sandy banks of the Chowka, which it was our intention to cross before dark. Breakfast being finished, the baggage was despatched, and soon after we were all ferried over in double canoes. The camels alone resisted, and they were compelled, by being forcibly pushed into the stream, and pulled along on each side of the canoes. One of them gave fight when near the opposite

bank, and I expected every minute to see the boat upset.

When seated at our new ground, the twelve-annas-per-munsem hurkhara addressed me, by saying, "The Raja *orders* you to say how many marches you mean to take to Keeree!" I answered, that if the Raja had any urzee, or supplication to present, that it would be advisable to send a person capable of addressing gentlemen in a respectful manner, for that he had evidently been wholly unused to such intercourse.

We had no sooner arrived in our beautiful and verdant encampment, amongst some bare-leaved, but flower-covered dâk trees, whose brilliant scarlet and brown velvet blossoms enamelled the turf, than intelligence was brought, that on the opposite jhow, or bastard tamarisk jungle, only separated from us by a narrow pool of stagnant water, a native, about twelve days ago, had been attacked by a tiger, surviving the interview only six days. On this we despatched a sepoy for correct information; and a villager was brought back, who declared that a man of a neighbouring estate had been seized yesterday by a tiger, and frightfully wounded: he had not heard since

whether he had died. We, therefore, determined to hunt after breakfast to-morrow, and move to our next encampment before sunset.

March 25th.—In consequence of yesterday's information, we mounted after breakfast, in search of the man-slayers, and returned, after a laborious search of full five hours, without having seen a single trace of a tiger, through the very covers where the preceding year a party had killed no less than nine. We observed several villages surrounded by bamboo clumps, which are equally efficacious in excluding troublesome animals (or collectors of revenue) and malaria, between whose united exertions the country was desolate and deserted.

Waugh brought home a florican and hog-deer, and had it been "on the cards," I should have been most happy to have added several brace of very interesting mullets, which I saw meandering in the pools connected with the river. Charming creatures! they are now full of delicious roes, which I esteem more highly than those of the earliest mango fish. They are as rich, but not so coarse as those of the sable. Remember, those of the Goomtee are the largest and best.

At three o'clock, for the greater convenience

of finishing a metaphysical discussion, which had remained unsettled between us for several days, I accompanied Ross in his stanhope to Assâree, a village twelve miles distant, at which we were to dine and sleep. We had already entered on our first principles; settled some ticklish definitions; agreed as to the meaning of the word "and"; were beginning to dive into the *medias res*, going all the time full tilt, with the sun in our eyes, to the west; when it occurred to me that we had not asked our road for some time, and Ross began to apprehend that we had missed our half-way house! Dinner certainly bears but a very loose resemblance to a metaphysical inquiry, in more points than one. The latter can be put off, and suffereth not—nay, often gains by time and reflection; but no candid person will assert this of dinner! This "came home to the bosoms" of both; so, after satisfactory inquiry, we turned our nag's head due east, and trotted away, *con molto spirito*.

I had almost forgot to mention that Sam Lal disappeared all day yesterday from camp, returning this morning to Mrs. Churchill's levee, during our absence, to solicit something velâtee, or foreign, which upon explanation,

effected through the interesting "Kureemun," the lady in waiting, turned out that he begged some rich cloth, or silks! He was wise enough to slink off before we returned.

Our evening encampment was pitched a few score yards on the other side of the village, amongst some straggling old mango trees, on a beautiful green turf.

On our route, we passed the first cropped field of wheat, while some were quite green. We were rapidly entering a richly-cultivated country, but every branch in the agricultural line was done in a slovenly manner. Weeding was at a discount; and therefore clover, thistles, and other weeds innumerable, were to be found in abundance, ripening their seeds for a next year's demand.

CHAPTER VIII.

A ride with the raja, Rutton Sing—His character—Pursâdpoor—An awkward affair—A native commander-in-chief, and his grievances—A native defaulter—Native politeness—A nautch girl—Gastronomic ignorance—Town of Keeree—Native disinterestedness—Omrâo Sing—An interesting discussion—Native misrule—Prospects of redress—Mischief of mango orchards—A tooffan—A bon bouche—A dilemma.

March 26th.—Mounted my elephant, and rode, in company with the Raja and his dependants, to Pursâdpoor, distant twelve miles. He was exceedingly anxious to gain information on English agriculture, and I did my possible to enlighten the gentile. Rutton Sing appeared to be a very shrewd, sensible man, in all worldly matters. I overheard him con-

versing with his followers, of events which he faithfully believed to have occurred 100,000 years ago, when man lived to the age of 5,000 years, or more.

We crossed the small river, called "Oola," about twenty yards wide and a foot deep, at the distance of 300 yards from the camp, which, as usual, was in a mango tope, unfortunately in full bloom, and the odour of the flowers was most oppressive. The caper plants and the wild kurrounda, however, regaled us on the road.

Pursâdpoor is a very spacious mud fortress, kept in tolerable order, surrounded by a dry ditch, twenty feet broad, and twelve feet deep, with a scarp twenty-five feet high, in the rear of which was planted a strong bamboo hedge. The esplanade on the east extends to the river. From a dislike to the chance of being insulted by the rabble, I did not visit the interior, to examine its citadel. It is held by Omrâo Sing and Bukus Sing, brothers, also zemindars of Oel, both at present said to be absent at court, at Lucnow. It was, however, rumoured in camp, that both gentlemen had absconded, on hearing that Raja Rutton Sing was approaching under

our cover, the Raja being one of their most deadly enemies.

Ross and myself were busy reading and writing, "under the grenewode tree," when a bearer, or kuhar, walked up, to complain of the very *marked* incivility he had experienced at the hands of the commander-in-chief of the Raja's forces. He displayed his leg in corroboration, on which was lustily imprinted the *vestigia* or traces of a full-grown bamboo, laid on by a vigorous arm. The man was in Churchill's service, and thus, unfortunately, the affair bore a political aspect. If sufficient proof could be adduced, it was clear that our dignity required that the offending party should be punished. In India, thank Heaven! evidence is always in abundance. A witness of the transaction was accordingly summoned, and after an *ex parte* examination, all doubts disappeared. A message was sent to the Raja, to acquaint him of the transaction, and to demand redress.

In a few minutes, our envoy returned, accompanied by the commander-in-chief, to explain his views of the assault and battery. As a military man, I blush to acknowledge, that

his excellency appeared to labour under the excitement of diffusible stimulants. He commenced a brilliant harangue, which would have lasted, had he not been politely interrupted, till he became sober. His eloquent appeal to us both, as brother soldiers—although in undress, with bows in our shoes, flapped collars, and wearing citizens' coats—subdued our angry spirits. When he clearly saw he had warped our feelings, with the cool skill of an accomplished orator, he then appealed to our judgments. His injured honour demanded the most unqualified redress. His proud bosom had been deeply wounded—nay, lacerated—by the foul and calumnious insinuations of the black malignant! He would explain what he was, and what, alas! he had been. He first brought into review, the many compliments which had been paid to his rare moral courage, by an officer whom he had reason to know bore a commission in the service of his Britannic Majesty! This gentleman had assured him, that by living alone and unsupported, amongst so many villanous black fellows, he, the commander-in-chief, had put *his* pipe out!

This phrase, aided and illustrated as it had been, by his recent conduct, was both power-

fully poetic and expressive! Digressing from this indirect instance of his personal valour, he next acquainted us that he had once borne arms in the service of the Lion of the Punjab. "And do you want to know who is the greatest rascal in his country? 'Tis himself!"

"Yes, sir," said the *now* tearful hero,—"yes, sir! I had married an English LADY! Oh, yes! all my rum gone, and beer, and two âyâhs!* Since that *damned misfortune*, I married a native lady, and carry her about with me on a bullock! She is good enough for the mofussil" (upper provinces).

This received our most cordial and unqualified assent. We permitted him to depart; after which, I acquainted one of the Raja's servants, that in our humble opinion, as private gentlemen, the Raja would gain little credit by keeping such a worthless character in his pay.

He returned again to us, when Ross was busy amputating two fingers and sundry useless smashed joints of the poor nutt's remaining hand. It was with great difficulty I could remove him; I effected this desirable object at last, by promising him a seat in Macaulay's

* Waiting-maids.

parliament, or some such valuable sinecure, in the diplomatic line. Perhaps I was to blame, as there is generally much indecent scrambling for such things.

In the afternoon the Raja paid us a farewell visit of ceremony, attended by the eternal, wearyful commander-in-chief, "with the liquor dying in him like!" But now he stood in the huzoor's presence as a menial. He was still very troublesome, perpetually interfering in and interrupting the conversation, in the most disagreeable manner.

The Raja, on being questioned, informed us that the banks of the Chowka always produced the greatest number of tigers, and that he frequently, in the very height of the rainy season, ran out from his estate to shoot such as gave much trouble to his villagers on its banks.

The commander-in-chief now explained the Raja's reason for inquiring as to my habits of intimacy with the nobles of the court of Oude. It seems that his son, a lad of sixteen, is now in confinement as a defaulter to the revenue, to the amount of 16,000 rupees, and that he is anxious to negotiate, *i. e.* bribe, for his release. The Raja's manners were, in a high degree,

elegant; and this much I must say for natives of the higher class, that while their principles, if not avowedly as bad, closely assimilate to those of the lower classes, yet such a thing as a rude, uncouth boor, is seldom to be found amongst them. Even in their allusions to the employments of their menials, they observe a style of delicacy which, though to Europeans ignorant of native customs and manners, generally appears of a highly ridiculous nature, yet strongly indicates the pervading influence of habitual urbanity of manners. The lowest class of servant employed in household affairs—a sweeper, is styled "mihtur," or prince. A tailor (with us, Snip) is a "khaleefu," or caliph. My mâhout, or elephant-driver, is a "foujdar," or leader of an army.

Inquiring once of an illustrious and intelligent Mohummudan, what was the origin of such nick-naming, he answered, "How can a gentleman hurt the feelings of a poor man by mentioning his trade?"

The poor old woman mentioned in the diary of the 5th, in her most affectionate solicitude, brought her son to camp, with the view of receiving medicine for the cure of his leprosy. I plainly told her that the disease was too

strongly established to admit of hope, and gave her a trifle to support her on her way home. She went away very sorrowful.

While sitting enjoying the cool air before dinner, a Nautch girl, who had followed us twenty miles, suddenly appeared before me, accompanied by her male assistant musicians. She was a stout, handsome Moossulmânee.

I declined hearing her, and she complained bitterly that she had suffered such a long jolt in her bylee—for she kept her curricle, with a pair of handsome greys, country-breds—for nothing! I was obdurate, and so she departed, "walking gracefully like a young elephant, or phenicopteros!" with a fine "huffing swell" and zunâna strut, boiling over with virtuous indignation.

Arnold and Waugh had sallied out at four, and before dinner returned with seven delicious fat teal; and well was it for us that we had some appui—"a green spot" on which to repose in the second course, for the floricans, although tender as ever, were decidedly fishy.

The increasing, rancorous, and most bitter jealousy of the khansaman, had reached such "bad eminence," by the well-merited encomia which day by day regaled my ears, that in his

blind and idiot fury, he actually denied me the butter that I required! In one word—for I am unwilling to enlist the passions, when my cause ought to command the judgment of my readers—there was no bread sauce!!

On remonstrating, the reply was, "I not got, and how must give? Every day he make it me trouble for butter! Where can I get? Suppose give perwanneh, then I get! 'Pon my honour, not got!" And the same evening, believe me, gentle reader, if there be truths in Ude! there was a pat large enough to have sufficed, placed on table after the second course, to be eaten with cheese! As the eastern barbarians say, "what need I say more?" gastronomic ignorance could hardly go further!

March 27th.—Marched to Oel, distant ten or eleven miles, passing through the town of Keeree. Observed, with astonishment, that almost every bamboo clump was in flower, and the ground underneath covered with seed, resembling oats, upon which, in great famines, the natives often subsist.

On arriving at our ground, I was presented at breakfast, by Mrs. Churchill, with a poetical offering of roses and mint. Nevertheless, if the truth must be told, I preferred the grilled

mutton. After our comfortable meal, Ross and I sat under the shade of the trees, shifting from time to time as the sun reached us, reading and writing. At a respectable distance we were surrounded by our native admirers, and from the crowd emerged, in solemn procession, one man, eleven full-grown women, and four children, bearing with them a splendid present of a basket containing a dozen of bulbs of garlic, and a score or so of gwineeas, a root slightly resembling a small kidney potato. Now surely this humble offering displayed both great natural and national simplicity of character! Dear and innocent, but entirely deluded people! All they expected in return was the usual five rupees! But the wind was easterly, sentiment was *hors de combat*, and Ross abhorred garlic.

The whole day was cloudy, insufferably close and hot; at every step we felt we were leaving the cool forest neighbourhood. In the afternoon, while enjoying my evening mussuck, we were warned of the approaching visit of Omrâo Sing, the powerful zemindar, son of Raja Buckus Sing. Churchill took to his heels, and I was reluctantly compelled to act the chief. Our visitor was a stout portly gentle-

man of thirty, comely in his person, and clean in his linen, which consisted of plain, delicate, and transparent English muslin. He had been mounted on an elephant, ornamented with a jhool, which had been once new.

Ross and self received him sitting, but rose when he was near; returned his salaam, and touched his nuzzur of five rupees, with the most marked politeness. At our request he seated himself. On Waugh's advancing to our interesting group, he also was introduced. At a little distance stood the body-guard of our illustrious visitor, the Kooer (or Raja's son), a distinguished corps, which I should imagine, on an emergency, might be found useful in plundering an enemy's baggage, if unguarded.

We soon entered into conversation, which, as usual in Oude, and in our own territories when the natives discover that we may be trusted, turned upon the distresses of the country. The Raja was loud in his complaints against the exceeding villanies and extortions of the aumils, who constantly attempted to gather more, and sometimes twice and a half as much, as the stipulated rent; in consequence of which, he said, the zemindars were compelled to rebel against the king. All attempts to

procure redress from the minister were completely frustrated by the frauds of his emissaries, who, on being sent to act as commissioners to inquire into their grievances, when possible, seized the complainants, and forced them to sign râzeenamehs, or acquittals! Owing to this course, and to the repeated failures of the crops from frosts, the ryots were now reduced to one meal in two days.

Our friend, the bold sportsman, Rutton Sing, kept one hundred and fifty men in arms; and many of the zemindars were compelled to go to the same expense for the sake of protection and personal freedom. It was, in fact, the old story,—misrule and oppression had been bravely met by rebellion and loss of revenue. And may it always be so!—may the arm of the tyrant be ever overmatched by the power of the injured! Oh, how fondly soothing are the thoughts, that redress, although now dim and distant, shall some happy day burst into a full and glorious blaze of light, searching even into the darkest corners of the earth!

And what is more curious, and apparently paradoxical, is, that the English themselves are the causes of the threatening ruin of this country. All, or by far the greater part of

our soldiers, are from the fertile and beautiful kingdom of Oude. It is true that they remit large sums of money, for the purposes of supporting the agriculture and population; but does not their absence deprive the land of a strong moral and physical power, which, if present, would be exerted in opposing the rapacity of its rulers? The three or four thousand men that are absent from every pergunnah within its limits, would prove an overmatch for any aumil who would dare to face them, and they would, in consequence, be compelled to act with careful justice and equity. At present they are perfectly unrestrained, except in such instances as I have mentioned. We rob the land of its labourers, and we sneer at the neglected plains; we rob it of its soldiers, and we mock at its defective police; and yet, size for size, man for man, as many murders and robberies are committed under our rule. I should like to see the results of one thousand appeals against the collector, to the judge, *before* and *after* the union of those discordant offices.

An eminent cause of the poverty of the people may be fairly attributed to the absurd

and baneful practice of planting extensive ambârees, or mango orchards. This is a vanity-mania, that seizes all ranks. The wealthy man plants his lâkh-pera, or orchard, containing, or said to contain, one hundred thousand trees, occupying from one hundred and fifty to two hundred or more beegahs of fertile land. The poor man has his bâgh, or garden, or bâgeechu, or little garden; and between them, the country is covered in all directions with unprofitable forests. In the higher latitudes of India these trees must be carefully tended for five or six years, to protect them from the frosts. For fifteen or twenty years they remain almost wholly unprofitable and unproductive; and thus the actual cost of the wretched seedling fruit, which to Europeans is seldom edible, is enormous. Generally, in addition to the loss sustained by the community in the thus indirectly increased price of grain, money or labour is wasted on embankments, and permanent wells; both which become useless when the trees have attained maturity. If equal capital and labour were expended on useful timber trees, miserably deficient in the cultivated spots of India, or in planting the edges

of fields with the seeshum, (or sissoo,) teak, (sâgwan,) or saul, ample returns might be commanded.

During the night we enjoyed the cool fresh air from the north, generated by a furious tooffân, which passed over our tents after dinner. By-the-bye, I must not forget, that we kept our last florican as a farewell *bon bouche*, till the third day. In any other—that is to say, in any civilized land, it would have been deemed delicious; true, the dining-room windows would have been thrown up. I had procured by stratagem a sufficiency of butter, and therefore exquisite bread sauce accompanied its appearance on table.

The bunnea who had served our camp with grain the last stage, had declined receiving any payment when offered, and said that he would return in the evening to settle his accounts; but he never returned, and in the afternoon it became necessary to consult on the matter. It was resolved to remit the money to the head of his village, by the shutur suwar, and obtain his receipt, at all events. I was never more surprised in my life, for certainly it would have been much more natural had he

asked for it twice over. It was deemed prudent, however, to secure ourselves against the injurious rumours that no doubt would have been circulated by the sutler after our departure.

CHAPTER IX.

Sâlâmow—Argaum—Female curiosity—Subscription for the wounded nutt—Khyrabad—A patriotic tailor.—Native beggars—A female impostor—An impromptu family—Conclusion.

March 28th.—Marched on my elephant to Sâlâmow. The ladies rode and drove. Encamped on the road side, in a tope of young trees, close to a large clump of bamboos, which probably enough contained the village. The morning, exceedingly cloudy, and after breakfast we were much refreshed and delighted by a heavy shower of rain. *En route* we had passed through Argaum, and as the buggies had preceded us as harbingers, we found that the curiosity of the fair sex had so far overcome

their dread of contamination from Ferinjee eyes, that every door was opened, that the fair, or brown recluses might enjoy a good stare at our party while dismounting.

As we proposed to separate to-morrow, we made up a purse of sixty rupees for the use of the wounded nutt, who still accompanied us, with his wounds rapidly healing, and every reasonable hope of ultimate recovery. Cruelly mangled as he lay, when a brother conveyed the money to his bedside, he contrived to turn round to see it counted, and gazed at the "argent" with silvery satisfaction!

March 29th.—Reached Khyrabad. Before I had dismounted from my elephant, I was attacked by a fellow, proclaiming himself to be an injured and ruined carpenter, who came to demand redress and retribution. Shocking to relate, a camel-driver—probably a descendant of the celebrated Hassan—had actually forcibly cut off the branch of a jamun tree which he, the ruined, wretched carpenter, had himself planted and watered with his own proper hands, and which, being altogether worth one or two, he was good enough to value at ten rupees.

I observed a very beautiful musjeed, or mosque, considerably raised above the ground, said to be built by the patriotic Mucca, the King of Oude's chief tailor! He has also built a bridge and other useful edifices in the neighbourhood of this his native city; feeding, as it were, with the same stitch, his own vanity and the poor whom he employed.

A great number of beggars having surrounded our tents, I called to me a miserable, wretchedly-unsavory, middle-aged, omnivorous-looking woman, clad in the dirtiest conceivable rags, with a petticoat, *simplex munditiis*, fringed with tatters; and with a chuddur, which, from its appearance, I felt myself at liberty to believe was at least highly perfumed, over her much-entangled hair. Having questioned her, in my most statistical manner, whether she had any husband to maintain her, or any children to support, she assured me that she had neither, and was, as I saw her, a poor, miserable, lone widow, without husband or child, kith or kin! And then? And then my heart melted into a silver four-anna piece, and she departed, roaring out one hundred thousand ungarbled blessings!

In half an hour afterwards, the same gentle dame reappeared, as she thought, in an unimpenetrable disguise, in the character of a starving matron, with a large family of helpless infants—two, twins, teething in arms, and three rips, ragless, in her rear! Bhookee-hyn, sâhib (we are hungry, sir!) Murjâtee hyn, sâhib (we are dying, sir!) Khâ-né-kâ-nu-hy, sâhib (we have nothing to eat, sir!)

I recognised her speedily by her voice and nether garment, and thought "foul scorn" of her deceptive powers. We are all frail—but this was too much. There is this only to be said in her defence—and it is my duty to state both sides of the question—that while the different agricultural societies in England are granting premiums to indigent people, who, on the fruits of their own labour, bring up numerous children without parish assistance, some allowance ought to be made for our erring sister, who, where there are no parishes, reared a large family, with such inconceivable rapidity, on a single four-anna piece!

THE END.

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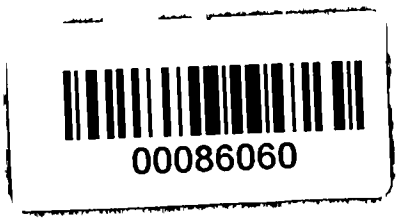

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